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Backlund vs. Maivia:
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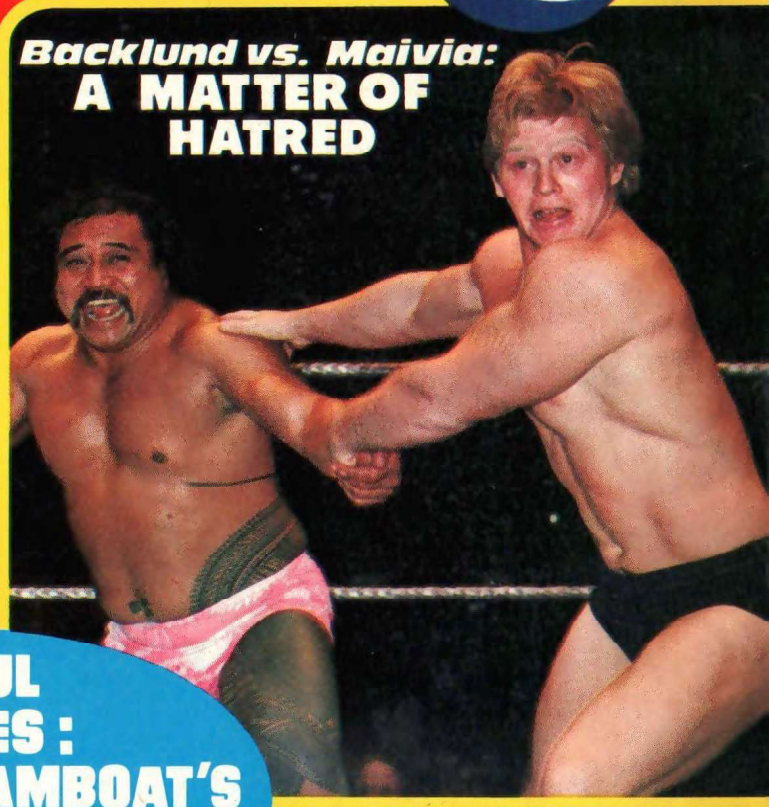
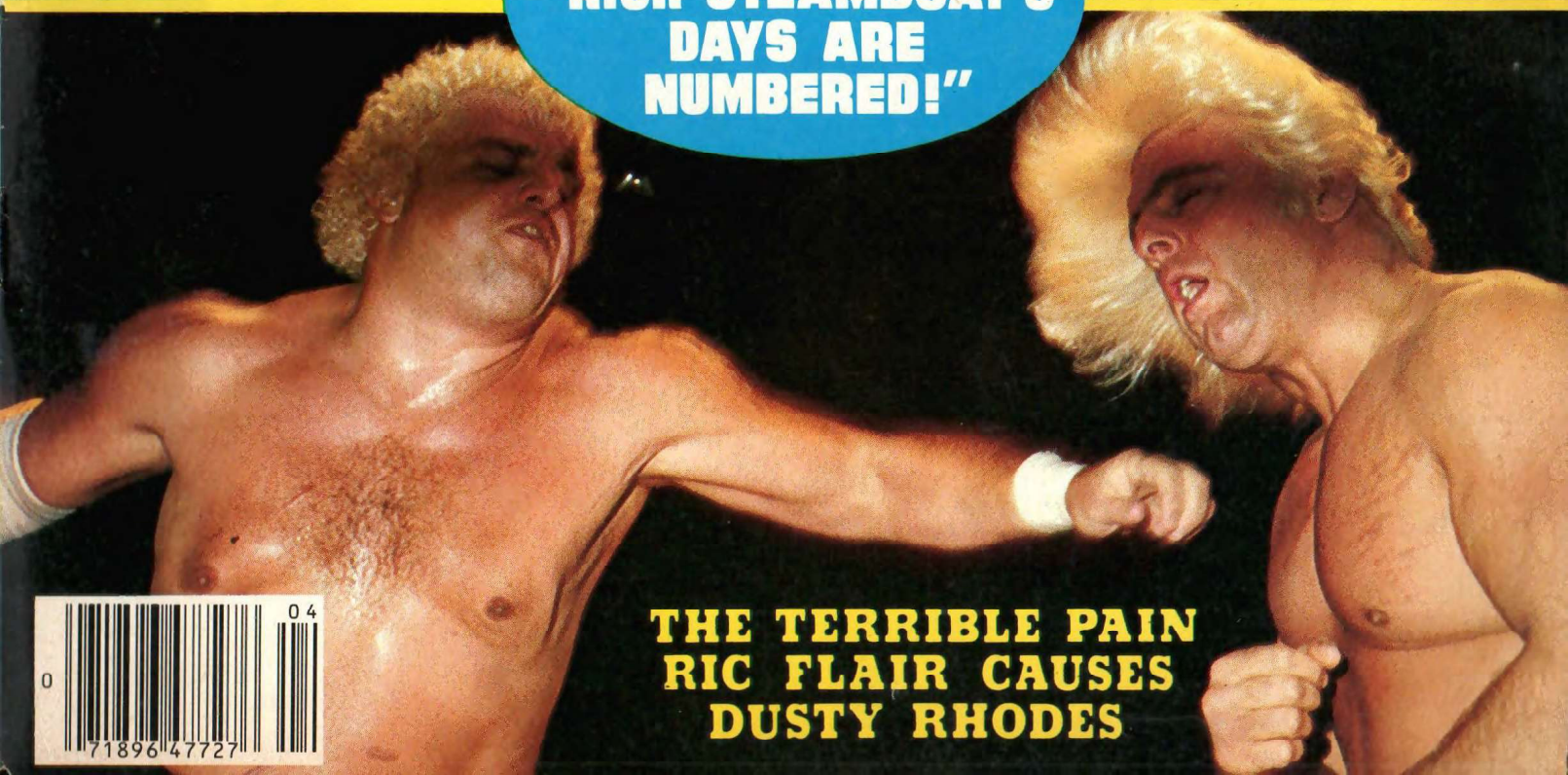


PAUL JONES: "RICK STEAMBOAT'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED!"



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"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

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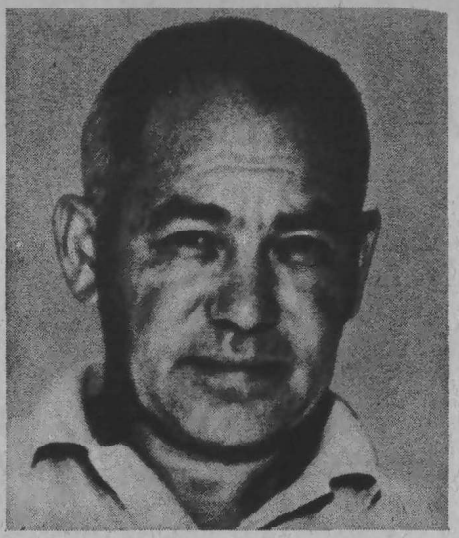
fifty

a true story
by John B. Haikey



as my ambition and energy dictated. I could put on as many men as I needed to cover any volume. I could make a profit on every man working for me. And I could build little by little, or as fast as I wished.

"So, I started. I took the wonderful training furnished by the company. When I was ready I followed the simple plan outlined in the training. During the first period I did all the service work myself. By doing it myself, I could make much more per hour than I had ever made on a salary. Later, I would hire men, train them, pay them well, and still make an hourly profit on their time that made my idea of retirement possible —I had joined the country club and now I could play golf whenever I wished.

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THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING

INSIDE Wrestling

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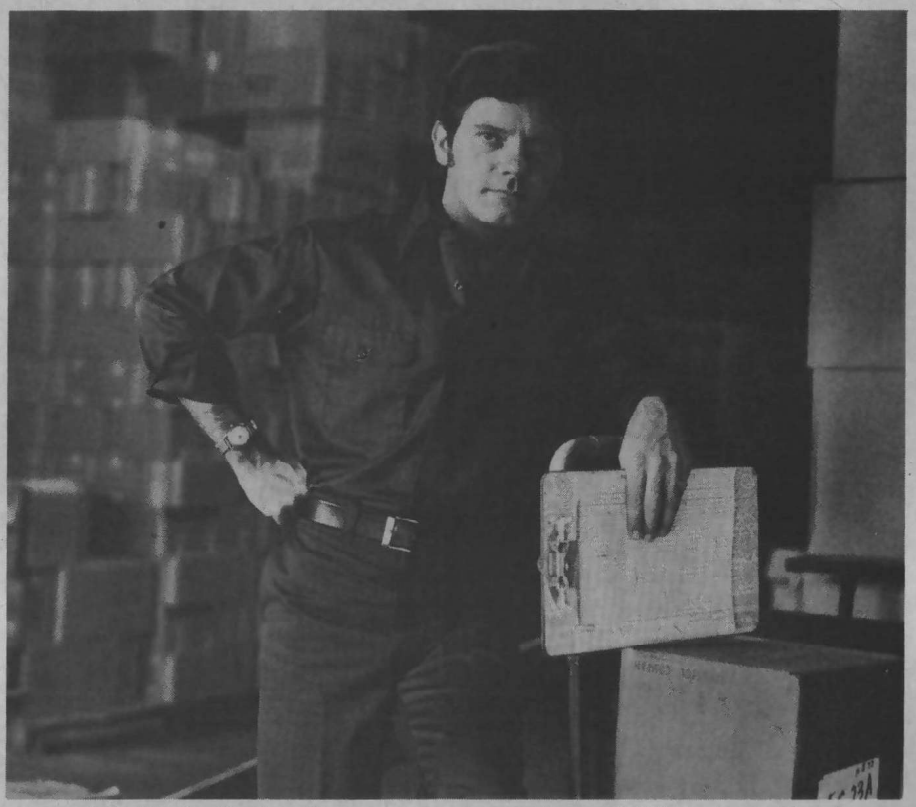

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter King
Editor-in-Chief

Recently, while appearing on a television talk show, I was asked what makes wrestling the popular sport it is. Intimidated by the hot TV lights and the ever-present cameras, I gave an answer which I know was inadequate. I hope this column will answer the question better.

Wrestling is 235-pound Bob Backlund standing victorious as his 300-pound foe lies battered, defeated, and confused on the canvas.

Wrestling is being brought to a point just short of joyous frenzy as Dusty Rhodes rallies from a sure defeat to win another match.

Wrestling is the incomparable beauty of Mil Mascaras' flying tactics, a beauty which leaves you stunned and drained.

Wrestling means the Valiant brothers, and the hatred--and respect--they engender every time they step into the ring.

Wrestling is the professional perfection of Verne Gagne.

Wrestling is the kindness of Andre the Giant, a man whose heart is as big as he is.

Wrestling is the "Living Legend," Bruno Sammartino.

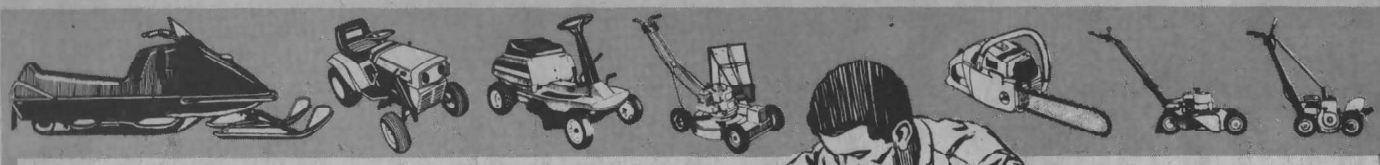
Wrestling is the young superstars, Steamboat, Flair, Bravo, Keirn, Brunzell, Patera, Valentine, athletes who could have excelled in any sport, but who chose wrestling instead.

Wrestling is Larry Zbyszko and Tony Garea winning the WWWF tag team title after three years of futility, giving us all a lesson in life.

Wrestling is the class and style of Nick Bockwinkle, a man you may hate but whose talent you must appreciate.

Wrestling is Harley Race, a brawler with a style you may despise, but whose courage and ability you always recognize.

Wrestling is the Funks, Briscos, Ladd, Grahams, Koloff, Strongbow, Von Erichs, and all the rest who make it the greatest sport in the world.



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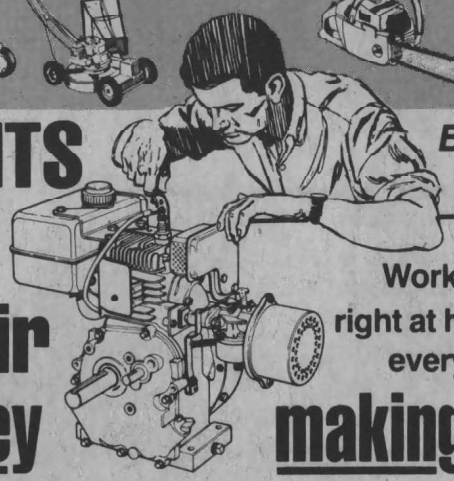

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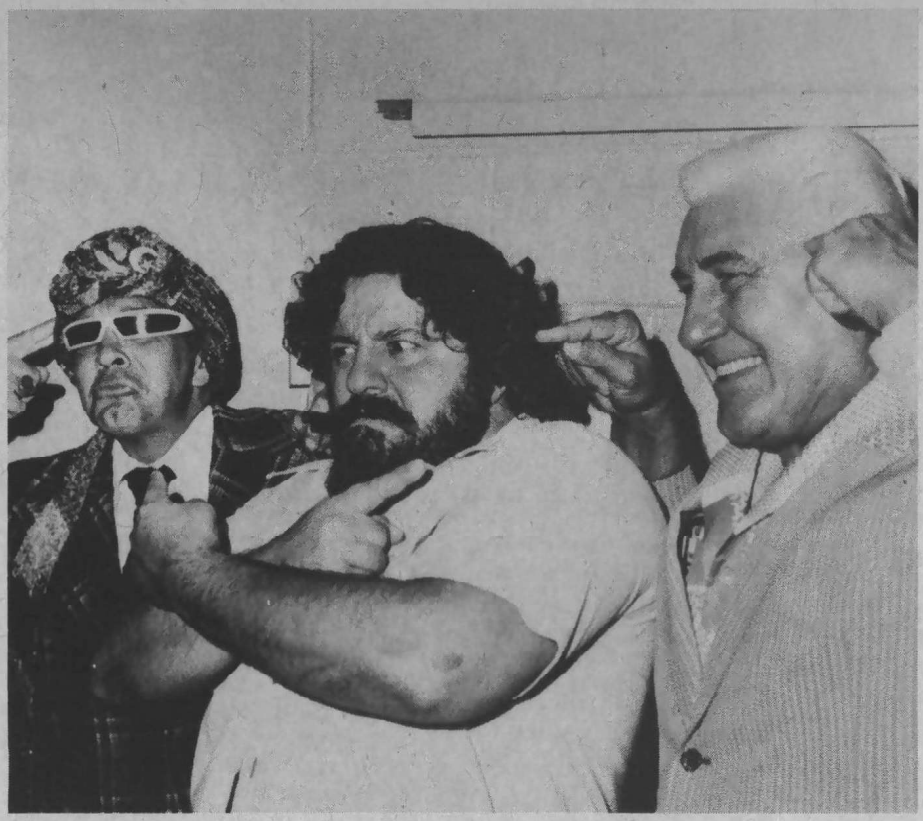
ON THE ROAD

with *GARY MORGENSTEIN*



I MADE A terrible mistake. And nearly ruined my career.

I arrived in North Carolina tormented by growing doubts and raging indecision disfiguring everything I had ever believed in, reducing my moral fiber to a crumbling pillar of dust.

Bobby Heenan said the media was prejudiced against rulebreakers. Referee Danny McShane offered an impartial position which partially supported Heenan's contention. Then there was the explanation of Peter Maivia when he turned rulebreaker, claiming he'd grown tired of the adoration showered on an ungrateful and devious Bob Backlund. And Paul Jones' embittered barrage against Rick Steamboat. His charges were that "young, handsome Steamboat" received an unfair share of publicity, and that the only way he [Jones] could compete would be to direct his bitterness through rulebreaking.

Maivia, Jones, Victor Rivera, Sprios Arion. On and on. And I was involved in this, always investigating rumors of rulebreaker treachery. Always criticizing rulebreakers while glancing at scientific wrestlers.

That's what disturbed me. I may have been more than a participant. I was a cause.

After countless hours on the road, I was close to a decision.

I would have to quit.

In fact, as I reached the secluded farmhouse one hundred miles north of Charlotte, I had already thought out my resignation letter.

Then I met the new rulebreaker federation. I first thought it was a league designed to give rulebreakers power. I thought it was an opportunity for rulebreakers to prove they could be responsible members of the sport, despite their tactics.

I thought such a balance could be achieved. I was ready to quit my job and proclaim the "truth."

(Continued on page 48)

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Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan Shocket

Noted rulebreaker Ken Patera shakes hands with his new ally, Paul Jones. Patera (far right) was thrilled when Jones (far left) joined the rulebreaking ranks after finally leaving his teag team partner, Rick Steamboat. Greg Valentine (second from right) gleefully looks on.

THE CHANGE IS startling. Where there was once a sniveling fool, there now stands a man. His body exudes power, confidence, and determination. The light of ambition burns in his eyes. Paul Jones has arrived.

Although it had to happen, many people had given up hope. Jones had to shuck off the dead weight of being a fan favorite, there was always the core of a winner inside him. But it was covered up with the mush of catering to fans, wrestling by someone else's rules and never getting a chance for the big prize. Jones was used, abused, and humiliated by everyone who called him a "sportsman" to his face and a "chump" behind his back. Today, Paul Jones is feared by everyone.

Fans, who are losers themselves, despise winners. That's why they taunt Jones with words like "rulebreaker" and "traitor," accusing him of destroying the sport he loves. Referees try to handcuff him, commissions try to suspend him, and his former "friends" talk about how much they want to run him out of town. Well, Jones isn't running anywhere!

Let us recount once again the wonderful story of how Paul Jones changed from chump to future champ. It was the conclusion of a battle royal. Remaining were Paul Jones and Rick Steamboat (the human waste product that is Steamboat has been detailed in this column many times). For several minutes, the two wrestled "scientifically," which is a nice word for "without guts." Then the miracle took place.

Jones started wrestling like a man. The crowd booed. Little Ricky got flustered, but Jones was magnificent. When the match was over, a hero had been born.

His tactics were rough. He didn't care about Steamboat's health. Maybe he did a few things not to be found in "How to Wrestle" manuals. This isn't some petticoat sport; they have tennis courts for that. This is wrestling and Jones proved himself a wrestler.

Since that wonderful day, the crowds have booed and Jones is delighted. Paul has slaughtered the boobs who've stood in his path. There's a joyousness about his battering; his victims are all former friends. Watch him sneer at the referees, men who kept him down because he wouldn't give them bribes. Today, he doesn't need their help. He's his own man and he is ready for the title.

(Continued on page 52)

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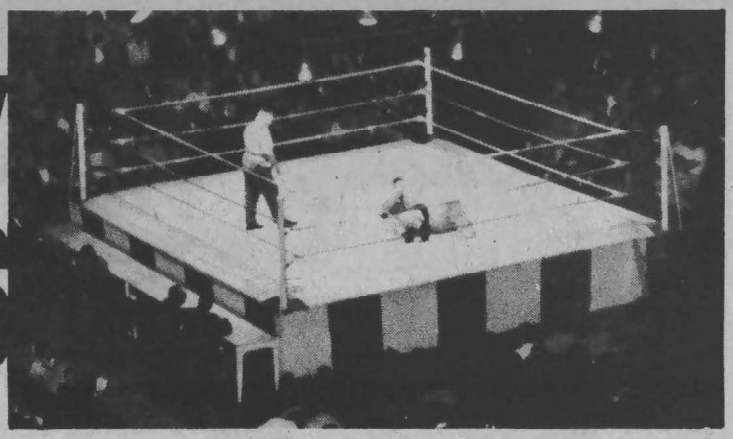
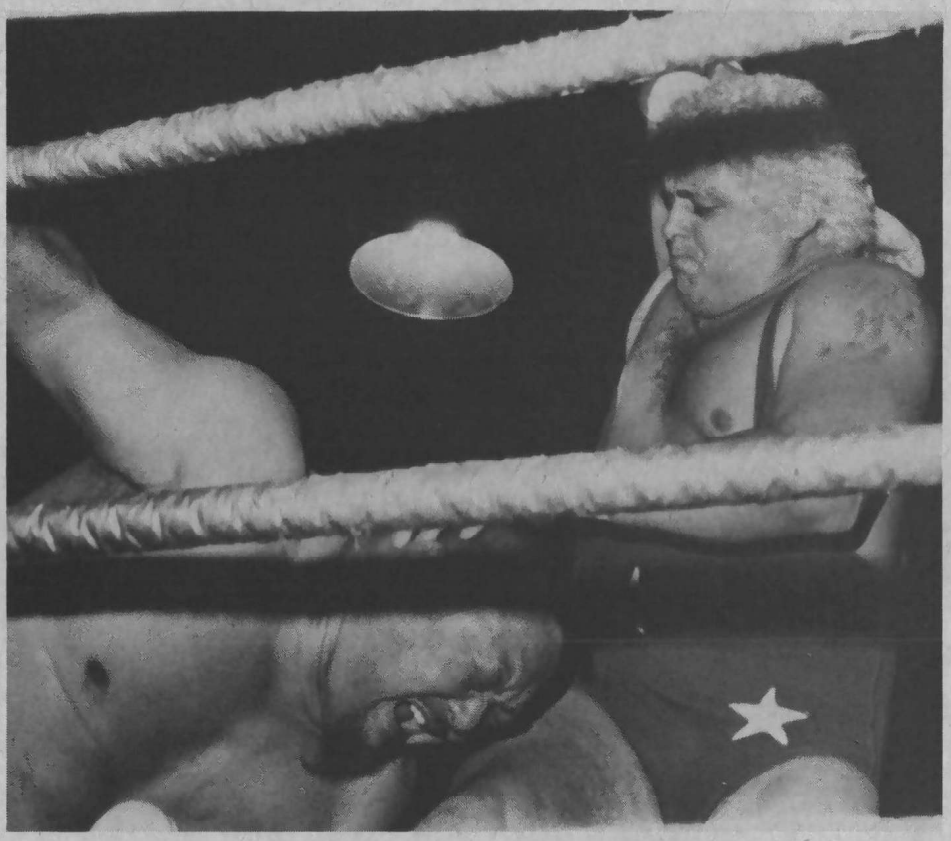


LOVES "THE INSIDER"

Your new column, "The Insider" by young Steven Farhood, is fantastic. It is apparent to me (and I have been following your wrestling magazines for several years) that Farhood has a young, fresh, almost naive approach to the cruel, hard world of professional wrestling. It is refreshing to read it after going through the cynical, pessimistic columns of Matt Brock, Dan Shocket, and Gary Morgenstein.

P.S.: His scoop on Dusty Rhodes in your March 1979 issue was sensational! Keep up the hard work, rookie!

EDNA KHOURI
Brooklyn, N.Y.



Dusty Rhodes in action against Professor Toru Tanaka (above). Dusty was the subject of "The Scoop of the Month" by young writer Steven Farhood last month. Edna Khouri of Brooklyn, New York, loves Farhood's new column, "The Insider."

SEND VALENTINE BACK

I am one of the most ardent WWWF wrestling fans around. I go to shows in New York, Boston, Baltimore, Long Island, and sometimes even Maine. Many of the wrestlers have gotten to know me and on their behalf, I'd like to offer a complaint. I read with great interest your "Hotseat" feature with Greg Valentine in the March 1979 issue. I have detested Greg for many years, ever since he was a rookie menace. From your fine magazine, I have learned that he is invading WWWF territory. This is horrible! For the sake of Backlund, Strongbow, Bravo, DeNucci and Garea, keep him away. He is an animal. He should be sent straight to the Bronx Zoo.

THERESA GAFFNEY
Scarsdale, N.Y.

THE GIANTS BATTLE

My fiance and I just recently attended our first wrestling match. We are interested in professional wrestling because we are a mixed couple tag team and we wrestle against other local couples interested in wrestling. We anxiously awaited the matches and knew that we would instantly fall in love with the action and the wrestlers. My fiance particularly likes Andre the Giant. When we saw him wrestle Ernie Ladd (March 1979 issue), we knew wrestling was our call in life. His performance inspired us and now we are looking to make mixed tag team wrestling our profession. Wish us luck.

JOHN HART & ELLEN SULLIVAN
New Haven, Conn.

(Continued on page 56)

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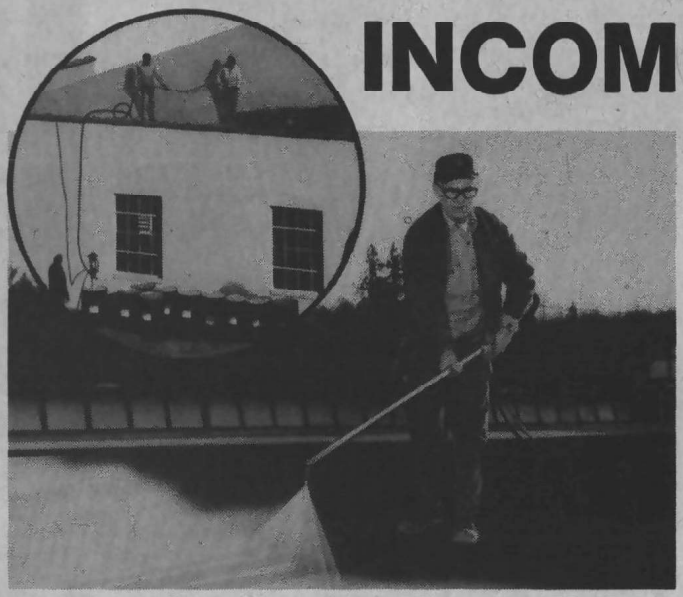

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THE INSIDER

By STEVEN FARHOOD

George "The Animal" Steele is a genius with an intelligence quotient approaching 200! Note the bony head development (above). I found out that George has no hair because it prohibits the growth of his brain, which is abnormally large.

SCOOP OF THE MONTH

George Steele has been pronounced an intellectual genius by a group of Detroit doctors! I know it is impossible to believe. But it is true.

Before I lose you, let me trace the story from its origin. Captain Louis Albano (many believe he is missing a few playing cards himself) always took a particular liking to George Steele, a wrestler he has handled periodically over the years. The Captain always stood up for George, condemning the press for their lack of understanding and sympathy. Albano did his best to delve into the maze that is Steele's mind.

Recently, Albano finally persuaded George to visit a hospital where a series of tests would be administered to analyze "The Animal's" intelligence. The hairy, odd grappler agreed. The results of the tests are astounding!

"We put George through the most thorough examinations available in modern psychiatric medicine," Dr. Merle Regan said. Dr. Regan, the head psychiatrist at the world-renowned mental clinic, claimed there is absolutely nothing wrong with George physically, but mentally he is a rare human being.

"George 'The Animal' Steele is a genius," Dr. Regan continued. "His IQ is close to 200! I believe the reason no one understands him is because he operates on a different wavelength than the common man. No one in the wrestling world can figure him out because they are not able to comprehend the inner workings of his brilliant mind."

Naturally, I was filled with doubt. I asked the respected doctor, "But how does one

(Continued on page 62)

Captain Louis Albano (above), the manager of George Steele. Albano's concern for his wrestler led to my big scoop.

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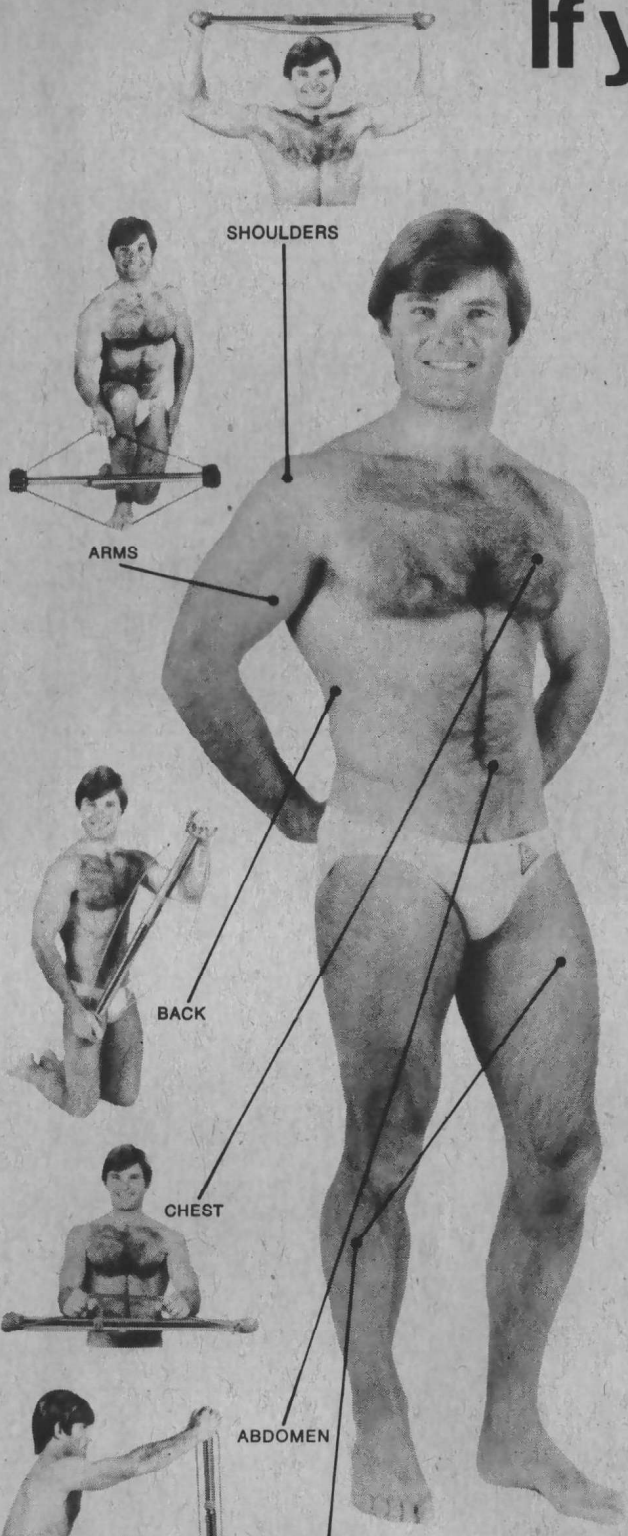

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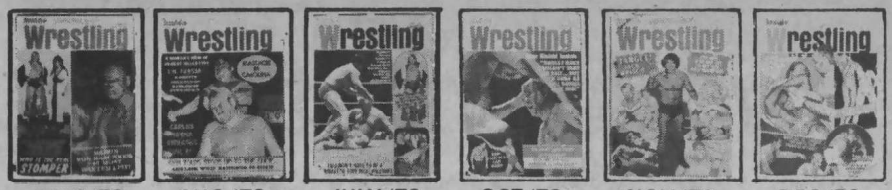

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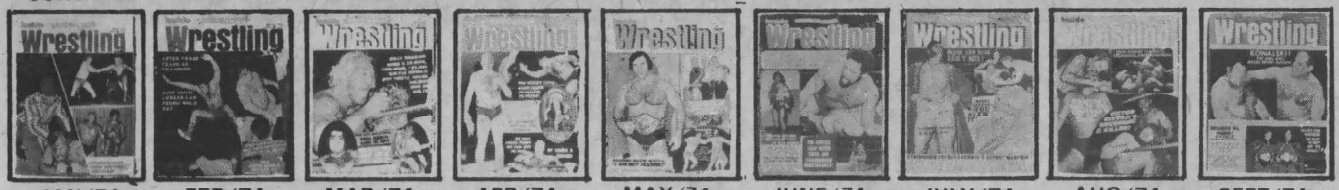

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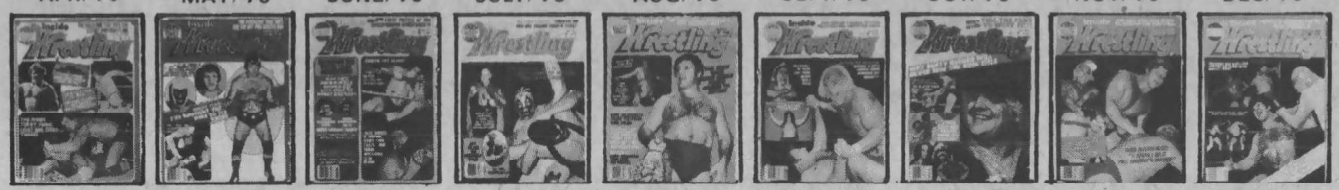

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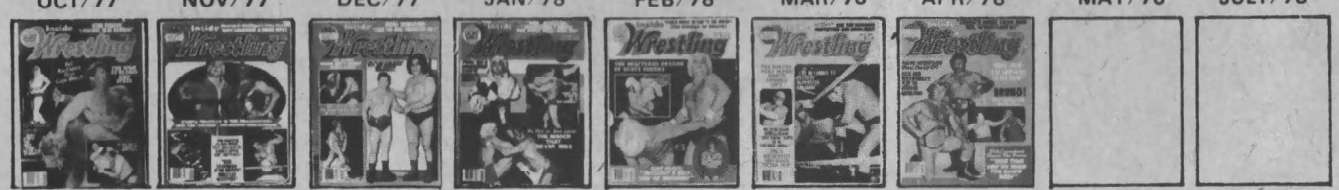

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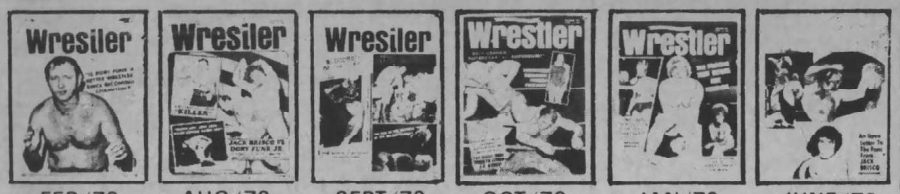

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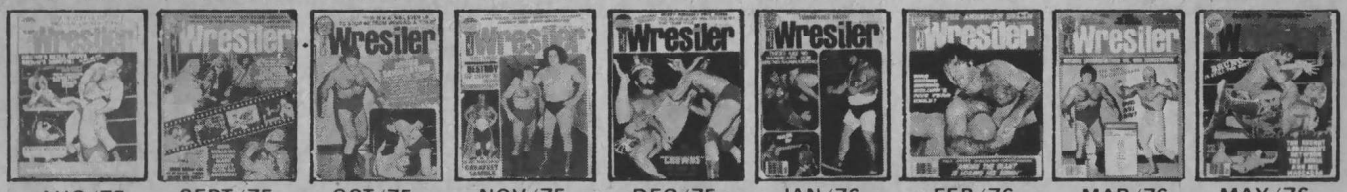

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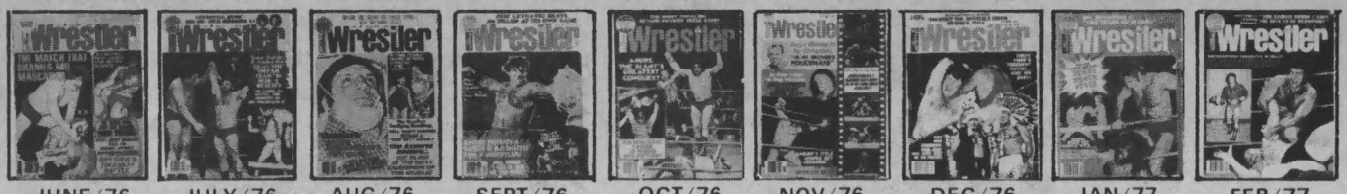

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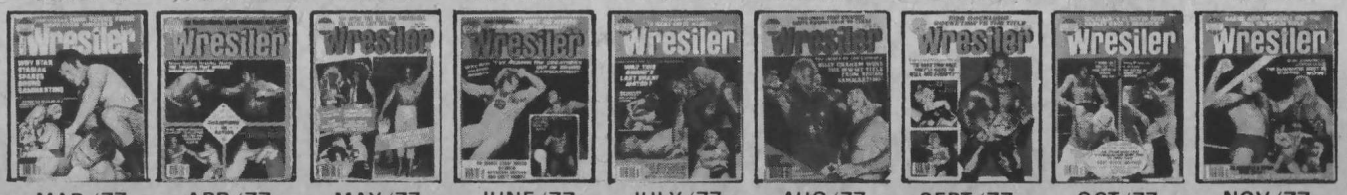

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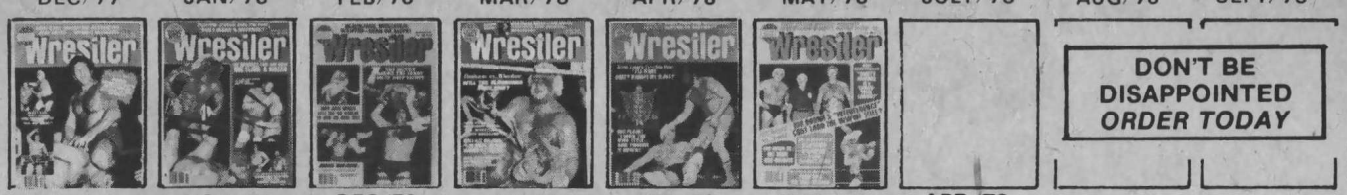

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Randy Gordon

I'VE BEEN TAKING a lot of criticism for a prank I recently pulled. However, this time I will not apologize.

I tricked Ivan Koloff into eating a chocolate laxative, which he thought was merely candy. Dozens of fans wrote, "You could have seriously hurt him!" So what! Hurting Ivan Koloff affects me less than swatting a mosquito. The two are equally as useful to humanity. Did you ever see him split a man's head open with a foreign object? I did. Did you ever see him blind a man. I did. Did you ever see him break a man's leg, then continue to twist the leg so that the man walks with a pronounced limp today? I did. We're talking about a supposed professional athlete, my friends. If Koloff was still home in the Soviet Union, you can be sure he would be in a prison camp in Siberia. I have no guilt feelings about giving him a chocolate laxative. In fact, I'm thinking right now about what I will do to him next.

***

I went to visit Paul Jones last week. The visit lasted less than 10 minutes. Jones said he has no more use for "the goody-goody element in wrestling," such as Rick Steamboat. He said, "I've come to learn that I've gotta look out for myself. Nobody else will. Being teamed with Steamboat was the worst

(Continued on page 58)

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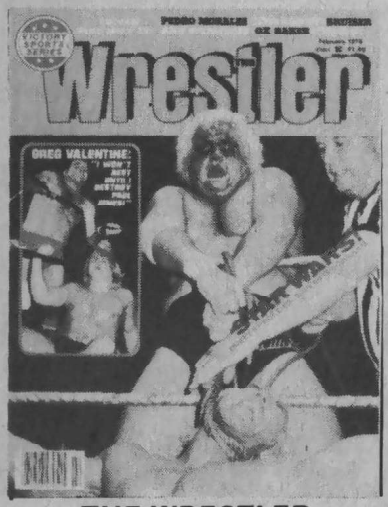

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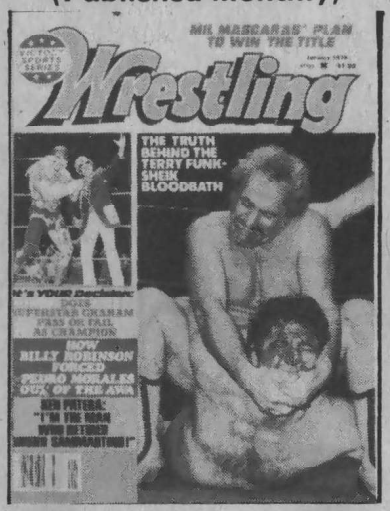

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NAMES MAKI

BUDDY ROGERS, the only man to have held both the NWA and WWWF championships, has come out of retirement! Buddy's comeback began at Florida's West Palm Beach Auditorium on New Year's day.

Rogers familiar strut was in evidence as he entered the ring, displaying his muscular and trim body. It looked as though the layoff of more than 11 years did nothing to tarnish the

BUDDY ROGERS

"Nature Boy's" looks. But could he wrestle as well as he used to.

When the bell rang, Rogers lashed out at his opponent, JIM GARVIN, using armdrags, hiprolls, and other maneuvers. After several minutes of action it was obvious Rogers was still a great wrestler.

In an exclusive interview after his debut, Rogers also showed he is still as arrogant and cocky as ever.

"Listen. I am still the greatest. So I've been away for a while. So what? You can see I didn't lose anything.

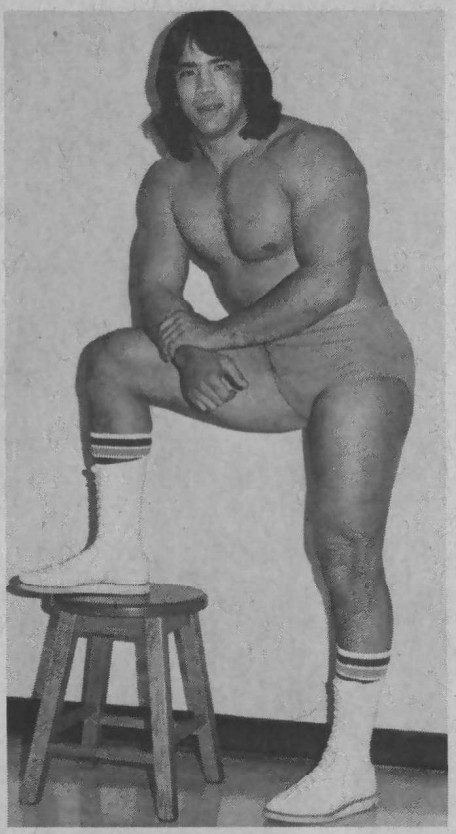
"I want to issue a challenge to HARLEY RACE. I want the NWA title back. I am willing to wrestle that so-called champion anytime, anyplace, anywhere. I don't think he has the guts to wrestle me. Beating that guy will be easy when I slam him and then apply the hold I invented, the figure four leglock. That's *my* hold, baby. I am the originator of it. And noboby does it better—nobody!"

Great news for the legions of RICK STEAMBOAT fans. Rick has won the United States championship from RIC FLAIR! Had Steamboat lost this particular match, it would have spelled disaster. The match was signed as a "hair vs. title" match. That means if Steamboat lost, he would have had his head shaven bald! "I'm so proud of this title belt," Steamboat said after the match. "Ric Flair doesn't have a chance to win it back," adds Rick. "I know I can beat him any time now!" Let's hope Rick doesn't become overconfident. Ric Flair is a top wrestler and no one should underestimate him.

Maniacal BULLDOG BROWER is in the WWWF and CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO is managing him. "Me and the Bulldog are not interested in the championship as much as we are in savagely dismantling the bodily features of little Howdy Doody Backlund," Albano pointed out. "BOBBY BACKLUND! Ha! The man is doomed, Jack! Me and the Bulldog are gonna see to it baby. We'll see to it!"

MIL MASCARAS has joined his friend JOSE LOTHARIO in Texas for a series of tag team matches. Their first test pits them against the FUNK BROTHERS, Terry and Dory Jr. . . . Although he hates BIG JOHN STUDD, BLACKJACK MULLIGAN admits that Studd is the first newcomer in years who "has given me a good run for my money. He's a tough one!" . . . ANDRE THE GIANT and JIM BRUNZELL were the last two men left in a battle royal. Rather than wrestle each other, they split the $25,000 prize money and gave their shares to their favorite charities.

Southern tag team holders KEN LUCAS and KEVIN SULLIVAN turned back the tough challenge of DENNIS CONDRY and PHIL HICKERSON . . JERRY LAWLER is still



RICK STEAMBOAT

N'NEWS

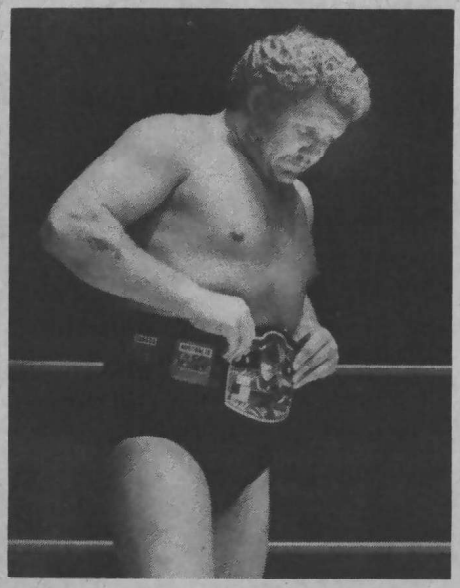
Bill Apter reporting...

waiting for a rematch against AWA champion NICK BOCKWINKLE . . . THE GRAND WIZARD has protege GREG VALENTINE using the figure four leglock to finish off opponents . . . THE VALIANT BROTHERS are finding TONY GAREA and LARRY ZBYSZKO a tough tag team to defeat . . . Florida fans say the match MIKE GRAHAM had against NWA champion HARLEY RACE was one of the greatest ever seen in that state.

THOR ODIN is the name of

BULLDOG BROWER

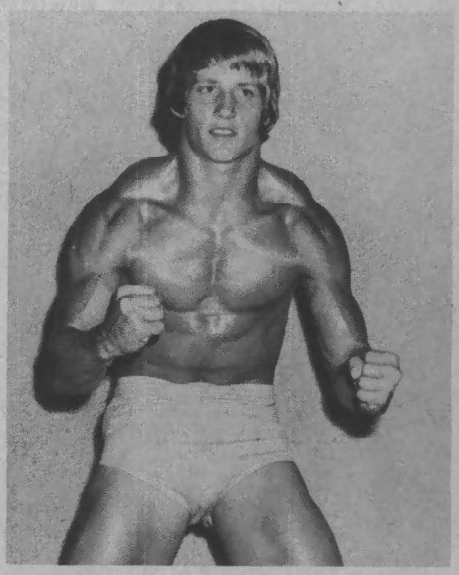
the Viking grappler now terrorizing southern mats . . . Remember the name MERCED SOLIS. The youngster is wrestling in Amarillo, Texas, and is defeating some of the best talent there . . . A piece of metal was found inside the mask of MASKED SUPERSTAR just before his recent bout against MR. WRESTLING II. The Georgia commission fined him $500 . . . IVAN PUTSKI is feuding with IVAN KOLOFF . . . DUSTY RHODES says he plans to end the mystery of MR. UGANDA. "I'll pull that ugly mask off his head and reveal an



HARLEY RACE

SNUKA & ORNDORFF

even uglier face!" says Dusty . . . Indian star Jay Youngblood is still teaming with friend SKIP YOUNG . . . NWA tag team champions JIMMY SNUKA and PAUL ORNDORFF are surprised that former champions BARON VON RASCHKE and GREG VALENTINE have not requested a return match. "We don't need a title to prove our greatness," boasts the Baron.

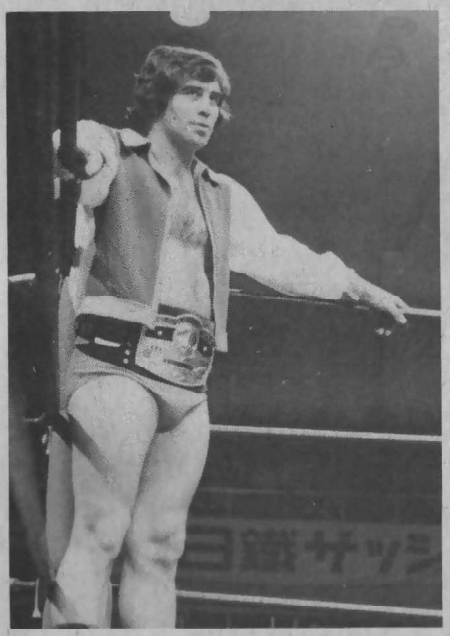


KEVIN VON ERICH

PEDRO MORALES continues to wrestle in California. Fans in the WWWF are begging for his return . . . BRUNO SAMMARTINO set to wrestle his former friend, Victor Rivera . . . PAUL JONES says he is proud that his close friends KEN PATERA and JOHN STUDD hold the Mid-Atlantic tag team title . . . SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM has accepted several matches in Texas. GARY HART is negotiating to manage him . . . KEVIN and DAVID VON ERICH are teaming less in tag teams and concentrating on individual matches. Both hope to soon get a shot at the NWA title . . . GENE ANDERSON and JACQUES GOULET have become a regular tag team, while Gene's brother OLE ANDERSON prefers the tag team company of STAN HANSEN. Promoters still refuse to let the Anderson Brothers team up.

That's all for now. See you next month. □

ONE O



Jack Brisco (above), a former NWA titleholder and international star.

Picturephone photos courtesy of Bell Telephone.

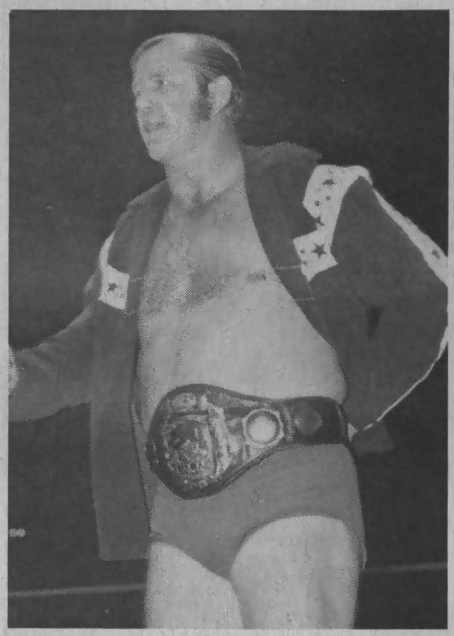
(Their rivalry transcends the usual confrontation of rulebreaker versus scientific wrestler. Much more has been, and will be at stake. They are both heirs to great family traditions. Both men criticize rulebreaking, yet are willing to brawl when their survival is threatened. They have enormous respect for each other, though that does not prevent a fierce rivalry. From his home in Florida, Jack Brisco speaks to Dory Funk Jr., currently at his training camp in Texas.)

JACK BRISCO: It's strange to see you over the phone, Dory.

DORY FUNK JR.: Least this way we don't need bandages.

Every month the telephone wires will crackle as two top grapplers rage and argue. We'll print the unedited transcript of their conversations, giving the fans a privileged glimpse at wrestlers which can be found nowhere else

N ONE



Dory Funk Jr. (above) who, like Jack Brisco, is a former NWA champion.

JB: Yeah, we get tough, but never cruel. That's why I *almost* enjoy wrestling you.

DF: Almost?

JB: No one likes that kind of workout. Well, in a way I do. It's good to wrestle someone like you, a guy who fights fairly, instead of one of those madmen.

DF: It's not the real nuts I don't like, the people like Bruiser Brodie or Abdullah. Those I can handle. It's guys like Harley Race that I hate.

JB: Yeah, I know what you mean.

DF: When I wrestle a madman, I know exactly what to expect. But a guy like Race is the worst type. He can cheat and be vicious so sneakily. Ah, in a wild way, I respect the pure lunatic. He's honest enough to wrestle the way he truly is.

JB: Race is the typical alley fighter. Nothing is too raunchy for him.

DF: It's a shame that younger guys are imitating the Races and Bockwinkles. They don't see that you can be tough and fair.

JB: Maybe you're too tough on them, Dory.

DF: How so?

JB: They haven't had the training we had. Remember, our families stand for something. These younger guys come up and form their styles from the goons they see on television. They don't have the benefit of a brother to help them along.

(Continued on page 46)

NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571 .

NEW YORK, N.Y.
By Tony Terranova

BOB BACKLUND vs. PETER MAIVIA

WWWF champion Bob Backlund was looking for vengeance against hated rival High Chief Peter Maivia. Though Backlund tried to keep the match scientific, Maivia used every cheap, low-down trick he knew and the match swiftly disintegrated into chaos. The bout ended with both men counted out of the ring.

OTHER BOUTS: Ivan Koloff, Victor Rivera and Pierre the Lumberjack defeated the team of Dusty Rhodes, Dino Bravo and Dominic DeNucci . . . Chief Jay Strongbow drew with Spiros Arion . . . S.D. Jones won by disqualification over Crusher Blackwell.

RALEIGH, N.C.
By Brenda Temple

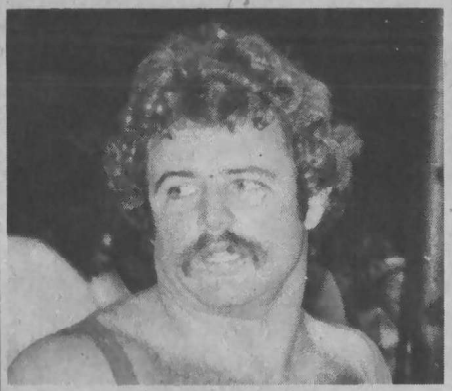
KEN PATERA vs. TONY ATLAS

Ken Patera accepted the challenge of Tony Altas to decide the Mid-Atlantic champion. Patera used a savage combination of power and rulebreaking in the grueling match to best Atlas and retain his belt.

OTHER BOUTS: Rick Steamboat and Johnny Weaver stopped Ric Flair and John Studd . . . Ted and Jerry Oates halted Swede Hanson and Chris Tolos . . . Jay Youngblood and Johnny Weaver topped Jacques Goulet and Gene Anderson.

SARASOTA, FLA.
By James Osborne

HARLEY RACE vs. MIKE GRAHAM

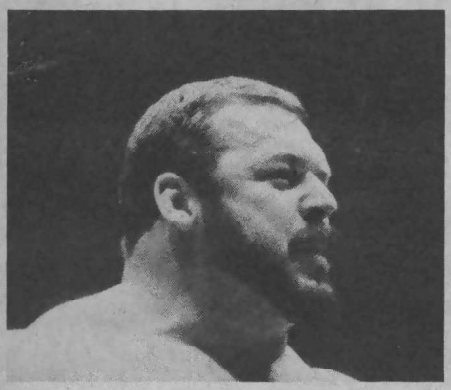


On this night, Mike Graham fulfilled one of his greatest ambitions: a title shot against NWA champion Harley Race. Unfortunately for the young challenger, Race's cruel wisdom prevailed and Graham was thwarted.

OTHER BOUTS: Pak Song and Mr. Uganda retained their Florida tag team title with a victory over Jim Garvin and Killer Karl Kox . . . Southern heavyweight champ Dick Slater successfully defended his belt by upending Joe Leduc.

WRESTLING CAPITALS

PITTSBURGH, PA.
By John Smith



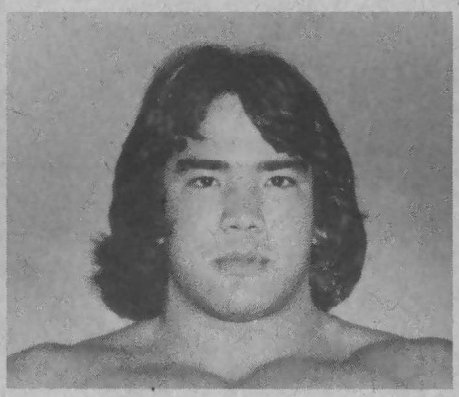
IVAN PUTSKI
vs.
SPIROS ARION

Ivan Putski's goal to rid the WWWF of rulebreakers was given a furious test when he met Spiros Arion. As usual, the Polish Prince was a symbol of integrity while Arion unearthed a series of vile tactics. Fortunately, Putski's methods proved superior.

OTHER BOUTS: Newly crowned WWWF tag team champions Tony Garea and Larry Zbyszko successfully defended their belts against Stan Stasiak and former co-champion Pierre the Lumberjack . . . Peter Maivia stunned Dominic DeNucci.

TORONTO, CAN.
By Keith Gibbs

RIC FLAIR
vs.
RICK STEAMBOAT

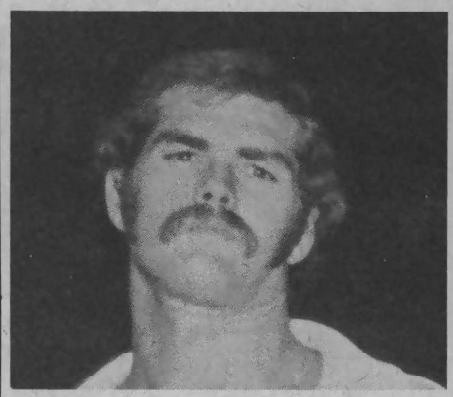


Ric Flair and Rick Steamboat continued their unending feud in Maple Leaf Gardens. It was an incredibly bloody match. Both men were dripping with thick, red streams until, blinded, exhausted and beyond hope, both wrestlers were disqualified.

OTHER BOUTS: Dino Bravo topped Gene Kiniski . . . Jay Youngblood and Tony Atlas stopped Baron Von Raschke and Greg Valentine . . . Jimmy Snuka triumphed over Swede Hanson . . . Paul Jones toppled Gene Anderson.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.
By Tim Hart

BOB ROOP
vs.
RON FULLER



The most animalistic happening in Tennessee wrestling history occurred in a one-fall bout between Ron Fuller and Bob Roop. Fuller won despite Roop's rulebreaking, but that didn't stop the bloodshed. Friends of both men jumped in the ring and a monstrous free-for-all began.

OTHER BOUTS: Southeastern tag team champs Kevin Sullivan and Ken Lucas stopped former champs Dennis Condry and Phil Hickerson . . . Professor Toru Tanaka tricked Tony Peters. □

HOTSEAT

PAUL JONES: "RICK STEAMBOAT'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED!"

A MALIGNANCY HAS infested wrestling. No one is immune to the germ which has found its way into the systems of such former fine men as High Chief Peter Maivia and Victor Rivera. With each change to rulebreaker, a bloody gash surfaces on the fabric of the sport. Another good man has fallen victim to the plague. He was once tag team co-champion of the Mid-Atlantic area. He once called Dusty Rhodes and Rick Steamboat friends. He was once loved by the fans. Now he is hated. His story deserves to be heard. He is Paul Jones.

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY RANDY GORDON

Q: Paul, glad to have you back on the Hotseat.

A: Been a while, hasn't it?

Q: Yes, but it's always a . . .

A: I wouldn't have been invited here if I hadn't turned rulebreaker, huh?

Q: I wouldn't say that.

A: Come on, Randy. The media suddenly discovers Paul Jones when he's hated. You guys were quite content to ignore me all these years.

Q: It's not a question of ignoring you. It's just big news when a man of your stature attacks his tag team partner.

A: He had it coming.

"We were partners. We were tag team champions. You can't have a tag team with one guy. But it wasn't put that way. It was always Rick Steamboat and that other guy."

Q: Why?

A: Oh, man. *We* were partners. *We* were tag team champions. You can't have a tag team with one guy. But it wasn't put that way. It was always Ricky Steamboat and that other guy.

Q: But that wasn't Steamboat's fault.

A: Yes it was. He played up to you imbeciles. He's always smiling and saying nice things when the press is around. You should hear what he's like when the reporters leave.

Q: Tell me.

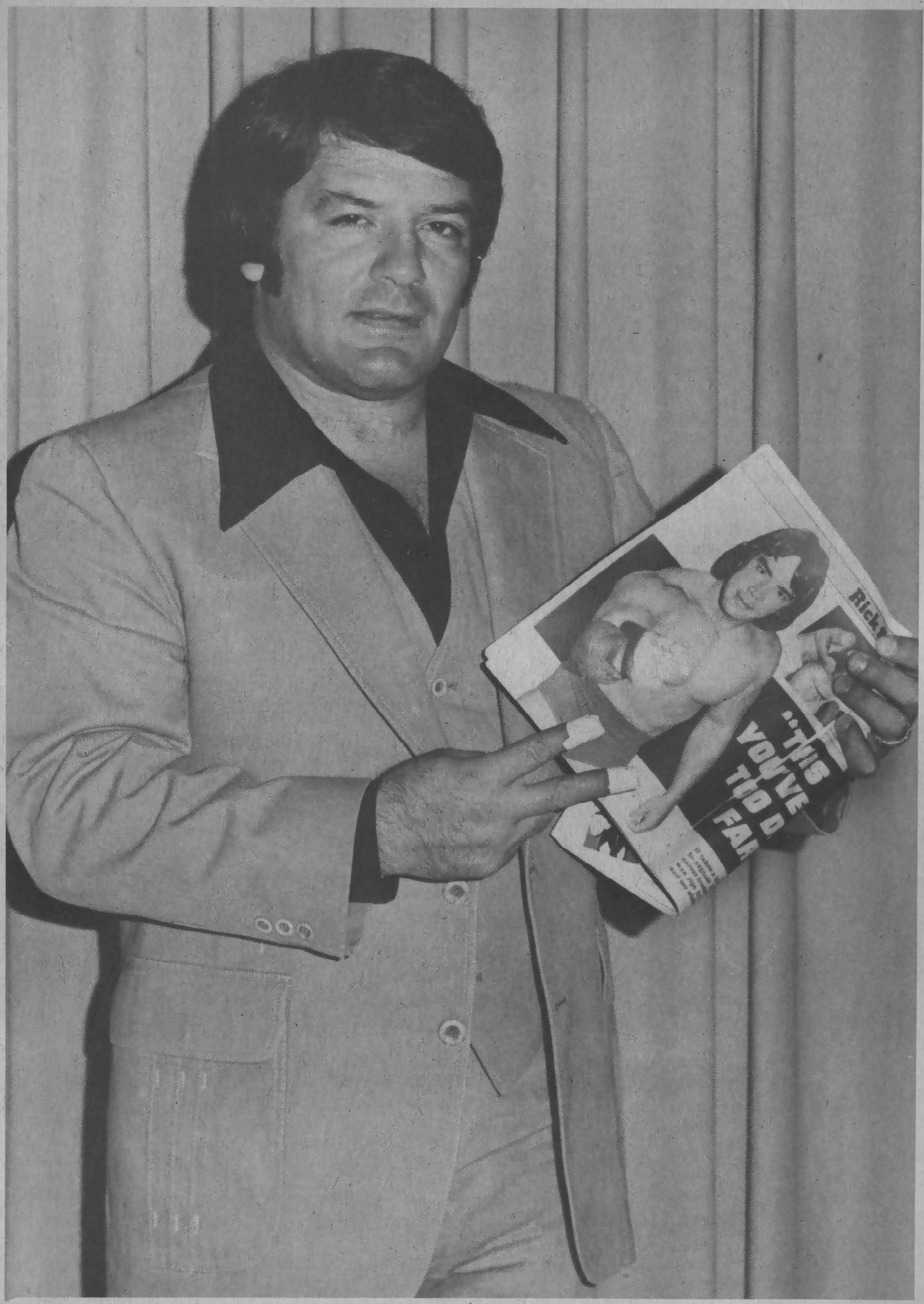
A: Is it going to come out straight?

Q: Exactly as you say it. I'm straight, Paul.

A: We had just defended our title against [Greg] Valentine and [Baron] Von Raschke. The press was in the room and, of course, they were *all* around cute Ricky. He was giving out his cutesy I-love-the-fans gump. When the writers left, he started making nasty cracks about the fans, saying how stupid they are and how he wished he could dump on the morons the way Valentine and Von Raschke do. Steamboat's full of it.

Q: I find that hard to believe.

A: Better believe it. Wrestling treated me poorly. I took and swallowed everything. No more. I'm going to get what I


Ricky
"THIS
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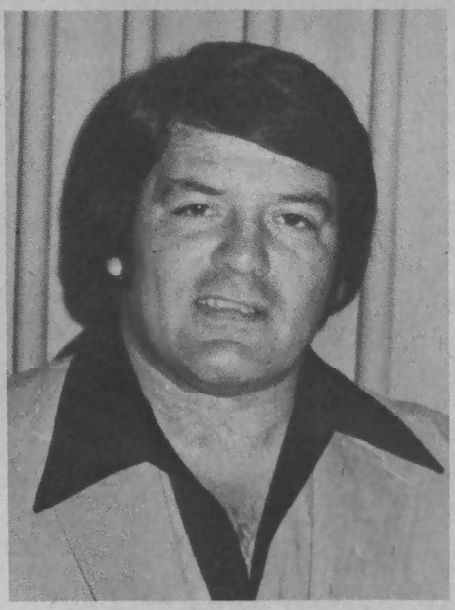


"What attack? I was provoked. We wrestled scientifically and he provoked me. Then all the frustrations and hostility erupted and I taught him a lesson."

deserve and I don't care what I have to do to get it. The more broken bones the better.

Q: What were you thinking when you entered that fateful two-ring battle royal?

A: Just about winning.

Q: Did it ever occur to you that it might come down to you and Steamboat, as it really did?

A: Yeah, it was a possibility.

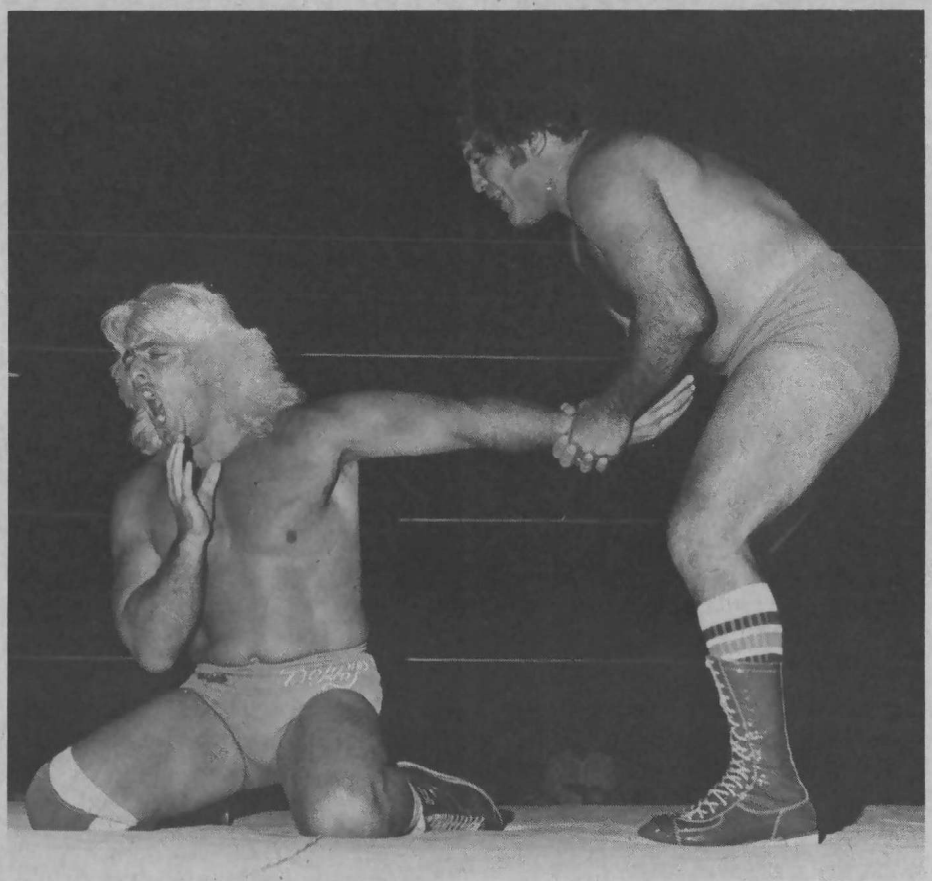
Q: Was your attack planned in advance?

A: What attack? I was provoked. We wrestled scientifically and he provoked me. Then all the frustrations and hostility erupted and I taught him a lesson.

Q: But Steamboat offered to split the money with you and forget about the match.

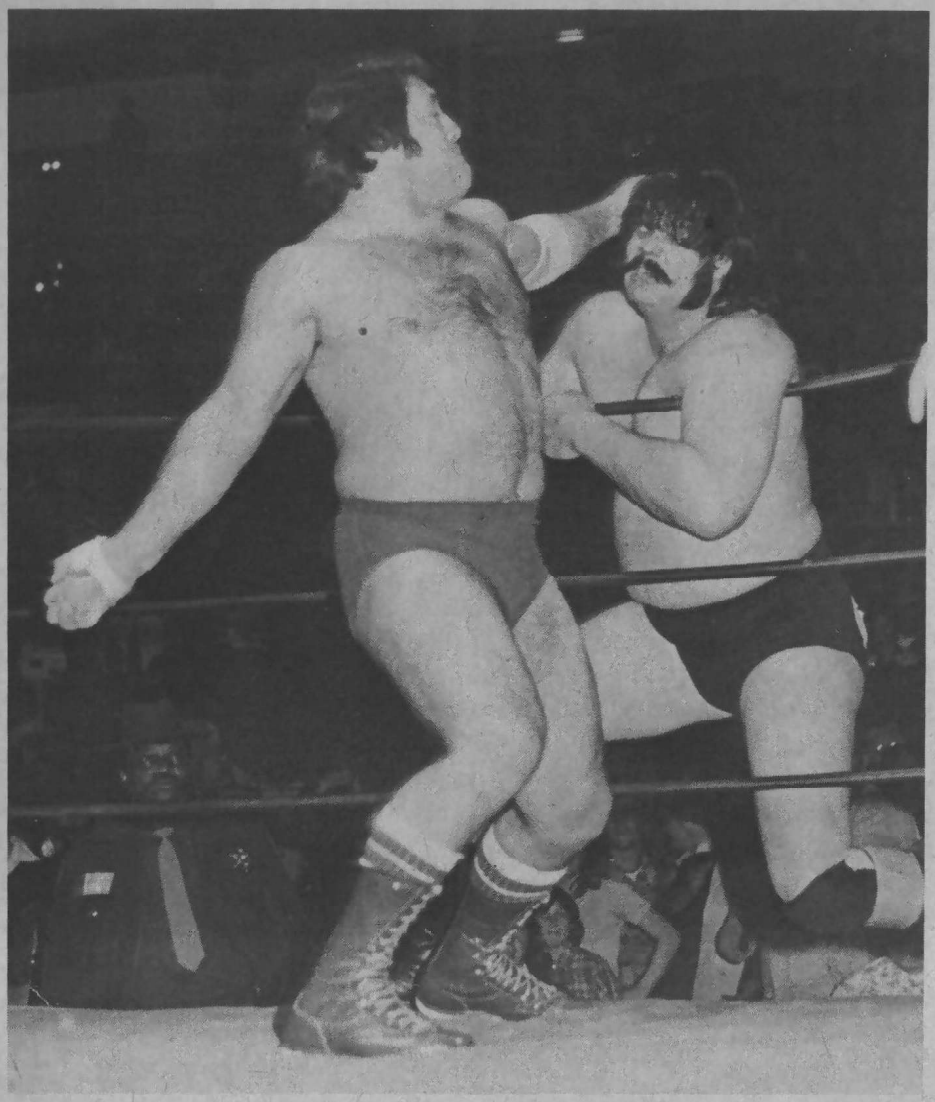
A: Oh, right. Steamboat the generous, the charitable. Then he would pose for the cameras and everyone would say what a wonderful guy he was and such a true friend. Hell, he was afraid of getting his butt bounced. And he had good reason to think that.

Converted rulebreaker Paul Jones (above, center) with his arms around his new buddies, Greg Valentine (left) and Ric Flair (right). When Jones was a beloved scientific wrestler (below against Ric Flair) and tag team partner of Rick Steamboat, he was a credit to wrestling and a warrior against rulebreaking.



Q: Isn't this all just a bitterness directed at Steamboat and not a complete reversal in philosophy?

A: I forgot, you're the Mary

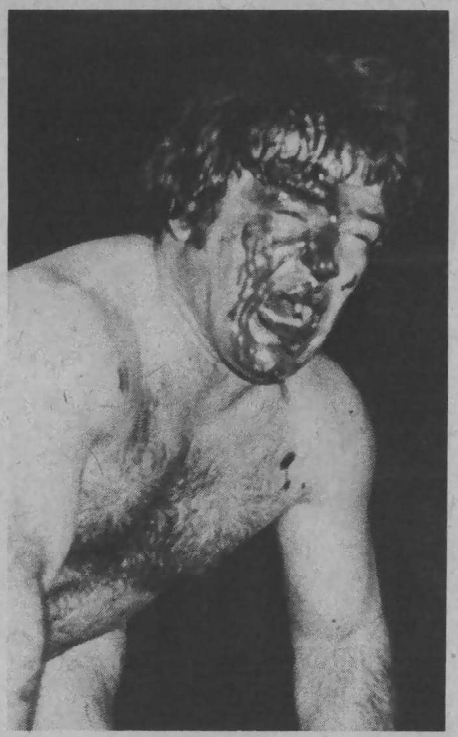


Jones is set to slam away at the head of another wrestler who recently switched styles, Blackjack Mulligan (above). Jones wears a grotesque mask of blood after a savage encounter with Cyclone Negro (below). Every Mid-Atlantic area of scientific wrestler would like to bloody Jones' face for turning on Rick Steamboat.

Poppins of the staff (chuckles). You probably don't want to see me go rulebreaker. Well, I have. I hate punks like Steamboat who play up to the fans, then bad-mouth them in private. I hate these smiling punks with the even tans and the wide smiles who don't know the first lousy thing about wrestling. I hate these punks who are ruling wrestling. There's only one way to be. Rulebreaker. That's where the glory is. Flair and Valentine, they know what they're doing.

Q: But they break friendships.

A: It's different. I trusted Rick Steamboat and he broke my heart. He turned on me, not the other way around. He stole the glory. That hurt. Flair and Valentine and those guys, they have no conscience. They know it all boils down to bucks and they'll sell their whole tribe down the chute for a buck. That's honest.



"I trusted Rick Steamboat and he broke my heart. He turned on me, not the other way around. He stole the glory. That hurt."

Q: What does Paul Jones want out of life?

A: Fame. Success. Money. Everything that's been denied me because I was too nice a guy. Those days are gone forever.

Q: Will you have a feud with Rick Steamboat?

A: It'll be a brief feud. Rick Steamboat's days are numbered. You can count 'em on one hand.

Q: Paul, thanks for sitting in. As a long-time fan of your honorable wrestling style, I hope you change back.

A: Don't bet on it, Randy. □

Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

DENVER: Decided to change my plans this month. Started getting boring. Life is routine enough. Hard to be bored with Ray Stevens patroling the AWA. I admit a soft spot for rugged veterans like Stevens. Guys like that are the foundation of wrestling. Necessary as they are, the younger guys, the elegant stylists and fancy grapplers would have nothing without the plodding, relentless Stevens and Pattersons. Had a great view of the Rockies from my hotel window. Think it was the same place I stayed last time. Same sheets, anyway.

HOUSTON: Took a cab to the show. Bad move. Ended up driving with Norm the Wiz, rumored to be the craziest cabbie in town. As thrilling as the ride was, listening to Norm was even better. Big wrestling fan. True motor-mouth who insisted Gino Hernandez was the greatest thing to hit Texas since oil wells. Gino is a head-case. Incredible resentment. Tough kid struggling to make good. Dead End Kid syndrone. That's why I agree with Norm the Wiz. To be champ requires that extra supply of fuel, that extra blast of fiery ambition. Hernandez has it. David and Kevin Von Erich still don't have the finishing fury.

GINO HERNANDEZ

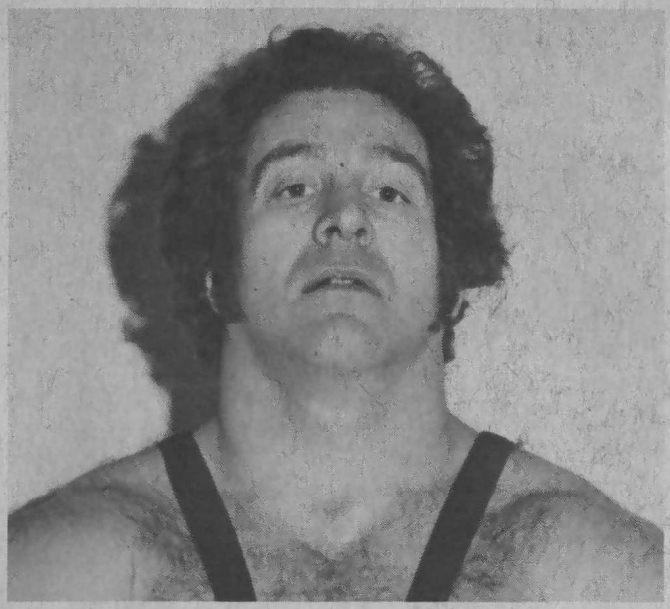
MASKED SUPERSTAR

ATLANTA: Masked Superstar, champion of Georgia? To say he disgraces the title is a compliment. That hooded hood is an insult to planetary intelligent life. I tried to interview him. Impossible. I used every devious journalistic trick. Elicted a few comprehensible statements such as "Mr. Wrestling II is the Anne Bancroft of wrestling" "Fans are cannon fodder" and "A match without seeing my opponent bloody is like a day without sunshine." What does that mean?

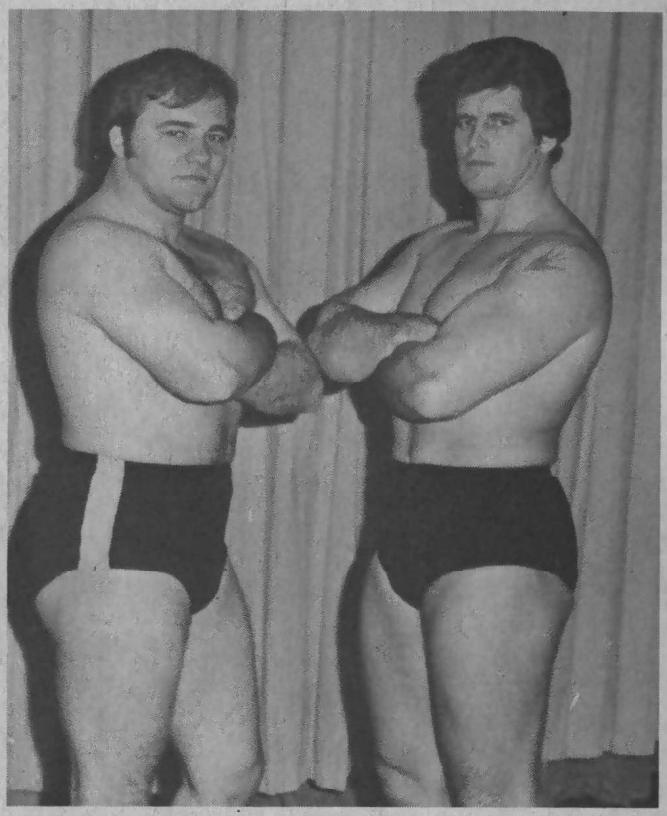
Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

I tell you, I've seen bums in my career. Guys who'd gouge out eyeballs, dislocate limbs, and pick their nose at the same time. But this Masked Superstar is a ghoul.

CHARLESTON: What annoys me about rulebreakers is their constant whining. Especially when you're fixing bloodshot eyes upon such large, snarling creatures several hours before noon and trying to interview them. I don't like morning hours with sunlight and all that stuff. My favorite places are usually closed by then. But back to Ken Patera. He feels slighted. Jealous of the attention Ric Flair and Greg Valentine have been getting. Patera gave the same old sop about strongest this and baddest that. Can it, already, will you? If you're that good, prove it in the ring. Blaming others accomplishes nothing. A little uncorked wisdom. No applause, please. Send booze, not money.

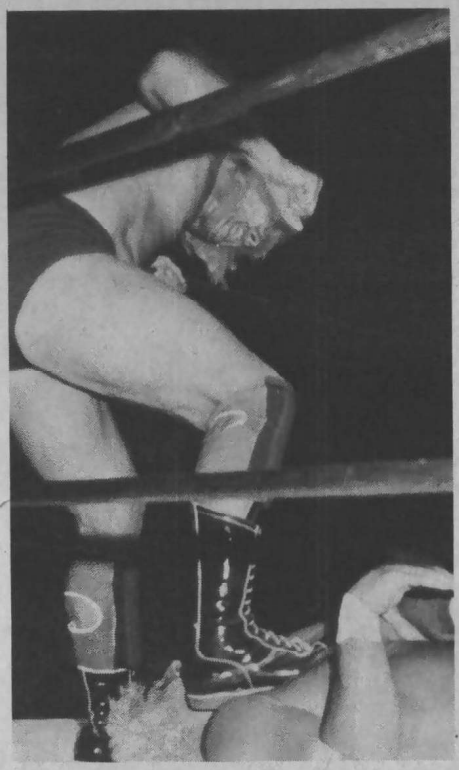


KEN PATERA



LARRY ZBYSZKO AND TONY GAREA

BINGHAMTON: Closed out the trip on a happy note. Found my overcoat. Left it on a plane. Still some honest people around. Or maybe no one would have anything to do with it. That's not the happy note. Well,it is, but I have to justify my salary. Delighted to learn that Tony Garea and Larry Zbyszko, two super-nice guys, supplanted The Lumberjacks as WWWF tag team champs. These guys are real class. They're honest, hard working and damn talented. Shows that good guys can triumph. Wrestling owes a lot to nice dudes like Tony and Larry. About time they were repaid. But I wonder if they can hold off the Valiants. Hope so, but I doubt it. □



Ric Flair slams his boot into Dusty Rhodes' chest. The pain Flair causes Dusty is more mental than physical.

THE TERRIBLE PAIN RIC FLAIR CAUSES DUSTY

IT'S NOTHING THAT Ric Flair says. It's more the mirror that activates deep within Dusty Rhodes' memory that causes the excruciating distress.

When Rhodes looks at Ric Flair, he sees a younger Dusty Rhodes. A Dusty Rhodes who used foreign objects. A Dusty Rhodes who violated the rules. A Dusty Rhodes who once maimed a man.

A member of The Outlaws. A rulebreaker. The past that Rhodes thought was buried.

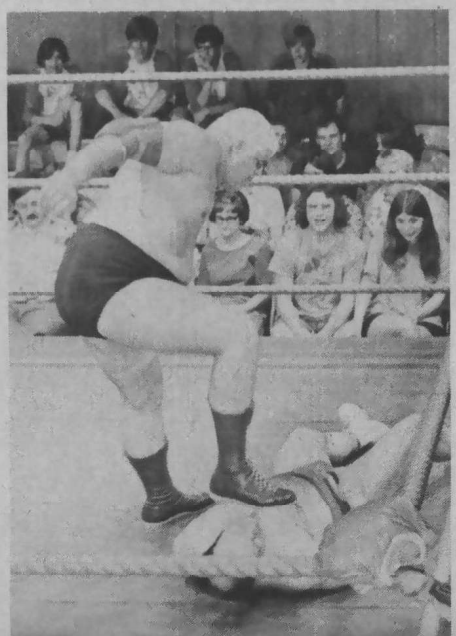
He realizes the past can never die.

"Yeah, I see Flair and think back to the way I was," Rhodes said, frowning. "I've spent a lot of time making up for my sins. I've turned to scientific wrestling. I don't break the rules anymore.

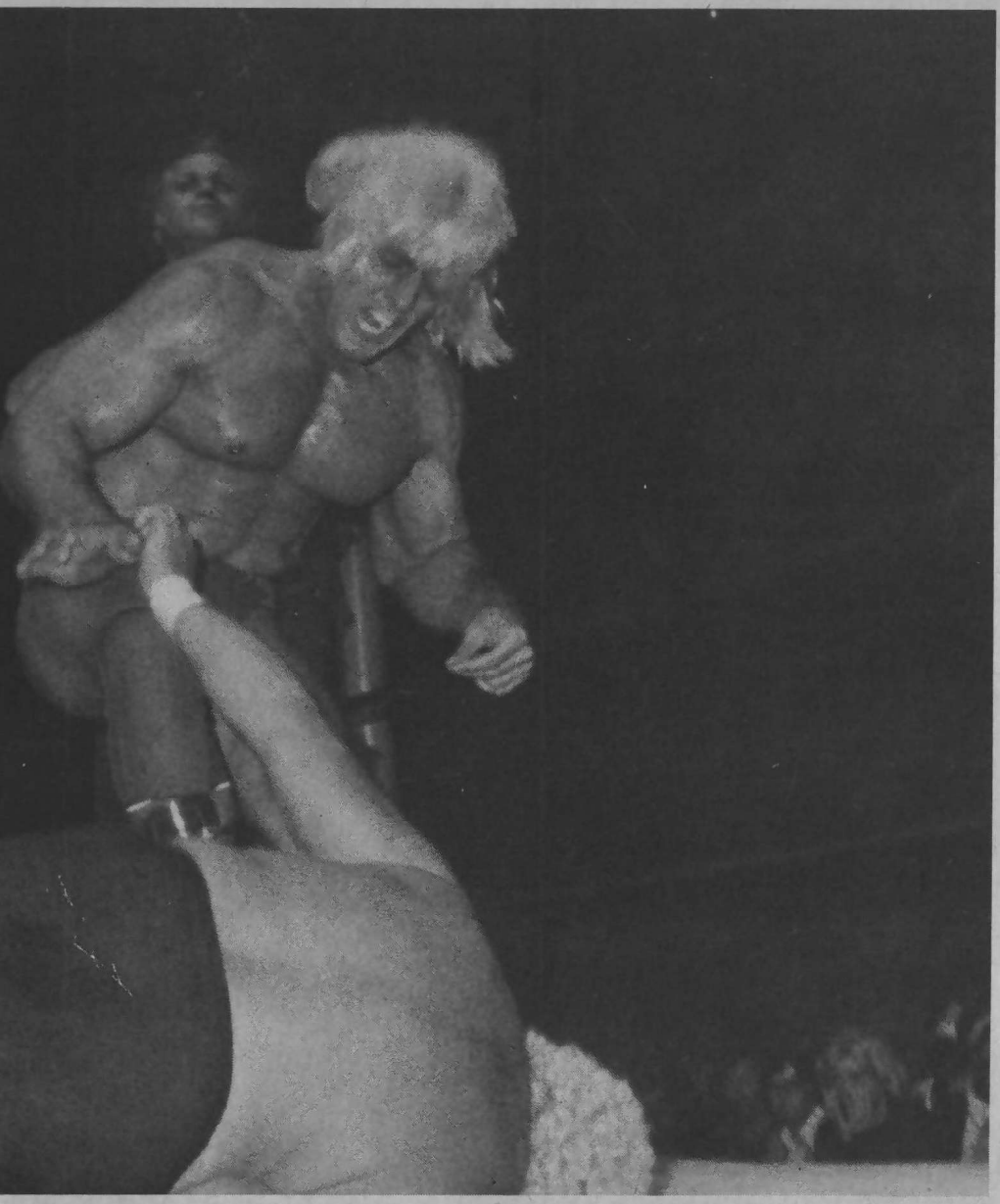
"But every once and a while something will happen and those days will come back. Kind of like a ghost which will always haunt me. No matter what I do, the past comes back.

"And I can't stand being near Flair. He mirrors a young Dusty Rhodes. I can't handle that."

Rhodes' inability to "handle that" causes his berserk ring reactions. Every time he has



Dusty Rhodes during the days he was a rulebreaker. Notice how similar his tactics were to those used by Ric Flair today.



Dusty Rhodes can never forget the shame of his notorious past. Ric Flair wallows in disgrace, revelling in the same reprehensible atrocities that once made Dusty so hated. This is a story of terror and anguish

RHODES

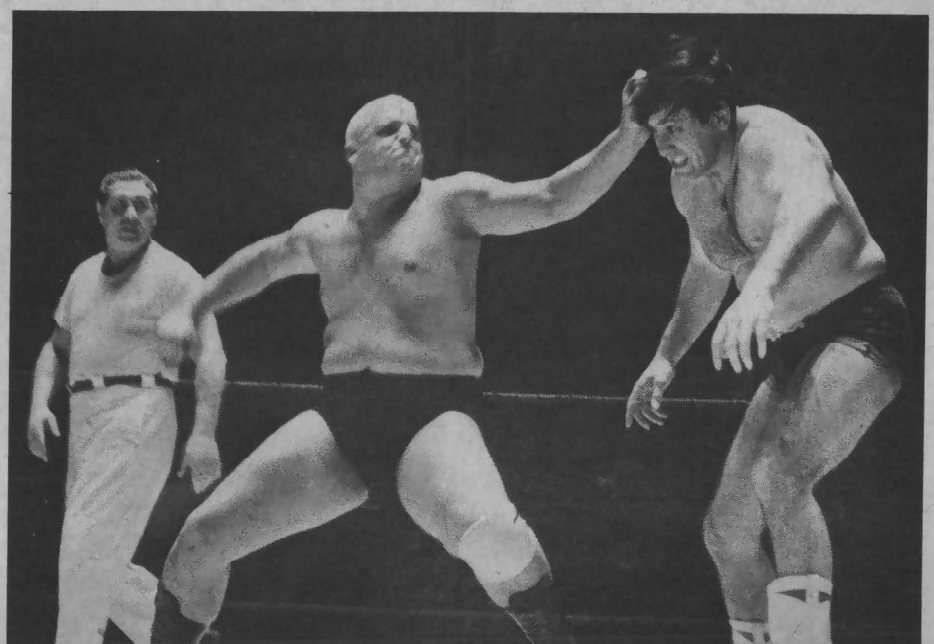
Above left: Flair continues his kicking assault on Rhodes. Above: Dusty gains the advantage. Below: Outlaw Dusty Rhodes was a cruel, ruthless wrestler.

grappled with Flair, the match has developed into a brawl.

"I can't help myself," Rhodes said, shaking his head. "He just has that, that incredible way on me. It's not that he's that good a wrestler. I just can't stand seeing him and seeing what I used to be like.

"See, it's all some kind of cycle. As soon as I wrestle him, I end up brawling. Then the word gets around that Rhodes is nothing but a street-fighter. Then people start hassling me

(Continued on page 50)



Once the best of friends, brothers in wrestling, Bob Backlund and Peter Maivia are now bitter enemies. There is no greater hatred than that born of revenge, and there was no more furious battle than the one which took place between these two former friends

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

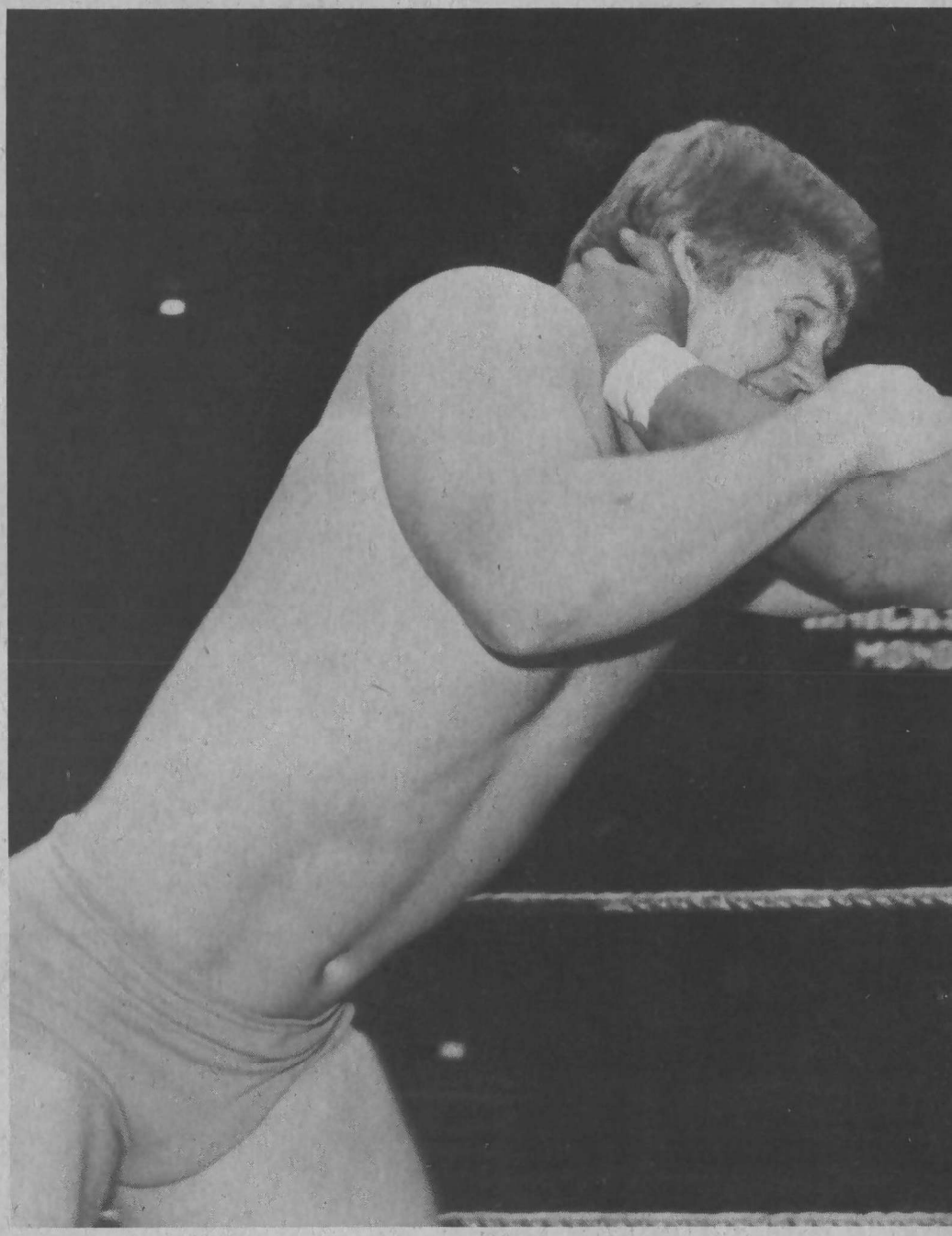
Backlund v

HATRED. THUNDERING, FLAMING emotions which poison the souls of these two men and hurtle them on a violent and maniacal path towards ultimate destruction.

Hatred. A word given new meaning and savage re-definition by WWWF champion Bob Backlund and High Chief Peter Maivia.

Converted rulebreaker High Chief Peter Maivia applies a nervehold to WWWF king Bob Backlund (above). Backlund and Maivia meet and struggle savagely in ring center (right).

The reason behind this feud is scarred into their memories. Maivia's betrayal throws Backlund into a sputtering rage. Thoughts of Backlund's immense popularity lash at Maivia and freeze him into a portrait of furious jealousy.



A MATTER

Hatred. And now it has moved one further fateful step along the road to tragedy.

A steel cage match. One of wrestling's most ghoulish creations. Two men trapped within the confines of steel, forced to confront the source of their contempt.

Both men gleefully anticipated the bittersweet moment.

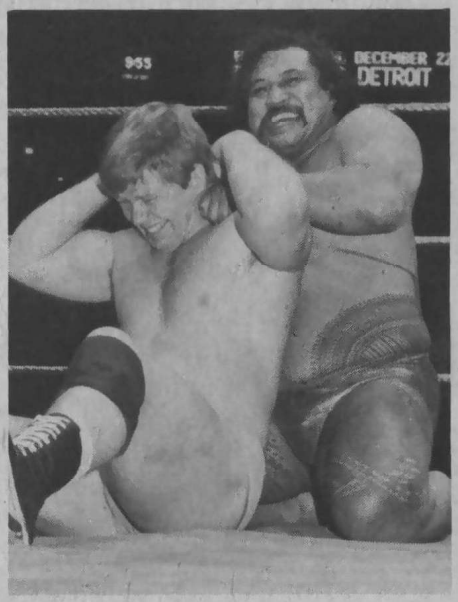
"I can't wait to get my hands on that moronic, smiling face and twist it into a melted chocolate bar," said Maivia.

"I want to destroy Peter Maivia. That's why I took this match," said an unsmiling Backlund.

Pained bitterness seems to have slipped from Backlund's view of Maivia. All that remains is the rage, though it is still mixed with puzzlement.

"I stopped caring why he did it," said Backlund. "At first, I really wanted to know why he attacked me and Arnold Skoaland. I really cared.

s. Maivia:



Maivia seems to enjoy the pain he is inflicting on Backlund (above) in a classic Madison Square Garden battle. The feud is growing more heated.

"No more. I'll never understand. I've accepted that. All I care about is paying him back for that betrayal. A traitor deserves only one reward—Destruction.

"He'll get it in the steel cage."

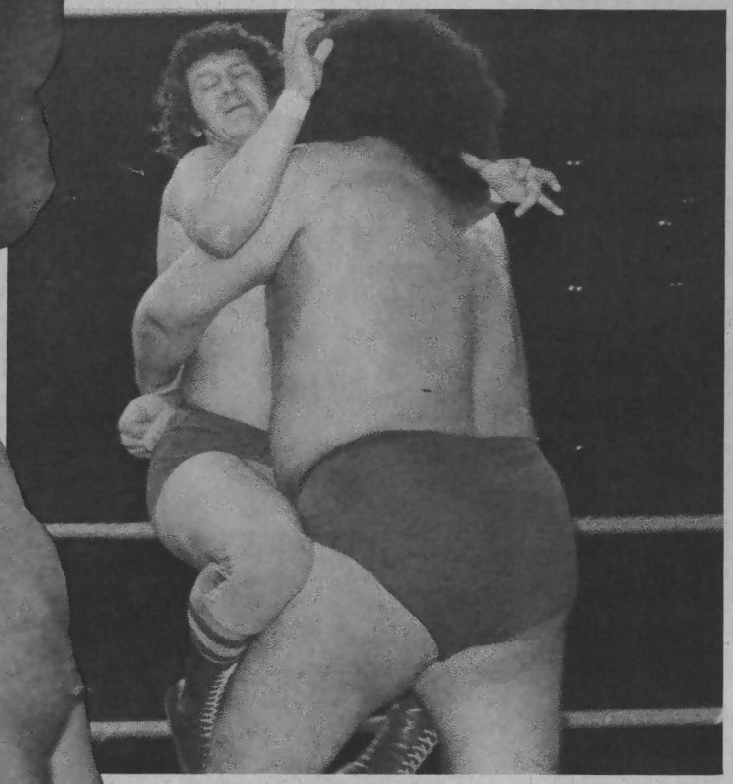
Despite the animosity, Backlund's emotions are mellow compared to Maivia's boasts.

"This will finish Backlund off

(Continued on page 54)

OF HATRED

ANDRE THE GIANT:



BOUN

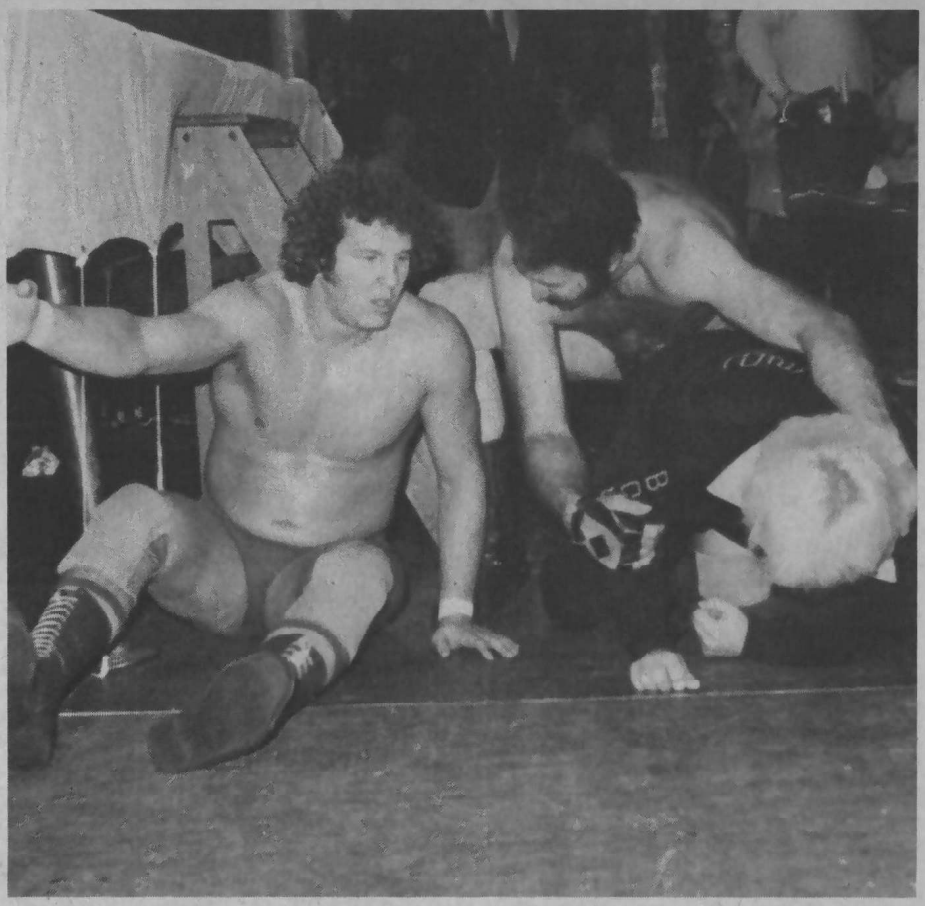
Bob Orton Jr.'s reign of terror has cut a path of destruction through the AWA ranks. For the good of wrestling, he had to be stopped. At times like these, the cry goes out for Andre the Giant!

PHOTOS BY TERRANCE MACHALEK

TALL WELL DEVELOPED men in designer suits entered the lobby of a downtown Minneapolis hotel. They were greeted by a friendly face at the front desk. It was Verne Gagne. He had called a meeting of the top scientific wrestlers of the AWA. The men assembled in a small room on the hotel's top floor. The reason for the meeting was a recent emergency that affected them all.

Before Gagne began his introductory speech, two wrestlers nervously lit up cigars. Crusher was visibly tense. Billy Robinson had a tight, worried look. The lines adorning Larry Hennig's face stood out. Mighty Igor was not as jovial as usual.

"Gentlemen, we all know why we are here," Gagne began. "We all have a serious problem here in God's country, the AWA. I feel I can speak for all of you when I say that Bobby Heenan is a devilish creature that



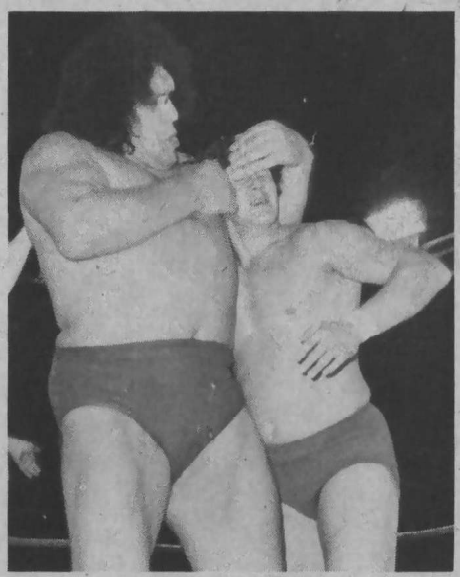
Bob Orton Jr. wears a look of disbelief after being tossed from the ring by Andre. Blackjack Lanza comes to the aid of both Orton and their manager, Bobby Heenan. Heenan is so upset that he beats his fists on the floor.

TY HUNTER!

cannot be trusted from arena to arena. He has caused us all misery and torment.

"Well, I feel that Henan has gone too far and we must act as a united group of concerned athletes who love our sport. Heenan has been using Bob Orton Jr. as a hit man. Orton Jr. has made it clear that his sole purpose in wrestling is to inflict as much pain and injury to AWA scientific wrestlers as he possibly can. Looking at the recent mat results, he is succeeding at an alarming rate. Something must be done!"

The veteran wrestlers spoke for several minutes. All had



Andre slams his fist into Orton's face. Note the size of Andre's huge hands. He can crush a basketball with them.

many words to say. While each had his own individual ideas, one name was repeated again and again. Andre the Giant.

"No way Orton is gonna hurt that huge thing," Crusher said.

"Andre is probably the only man in wrestling today that both Heenan and Orton fear," added Billy Robinson.

"If Andre would only come and meet Orton in the ring, our problems might be solved," pointed out Jim Brunzell. "Orton has an open contract and can't refuse the match if the promoters want it."

Verne Gagne spoke to Andre

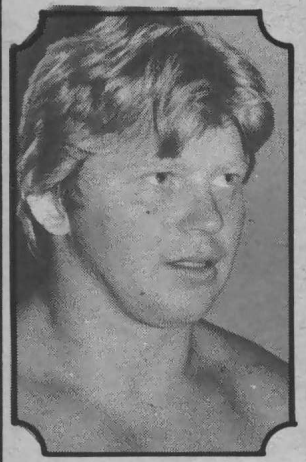
(Continued on page 64)

INSIDE WRESTLING'S

OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

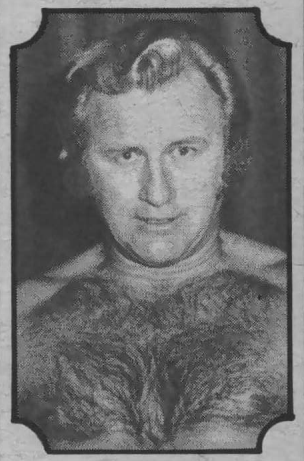
World Wide Wrestling Federation



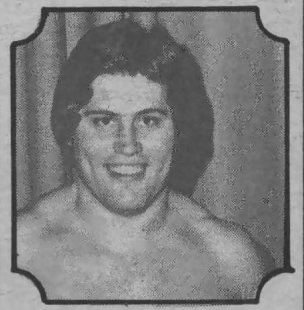
Champion:
Bob Backlund

1—GREG VALENTINE

American Wrestling Association

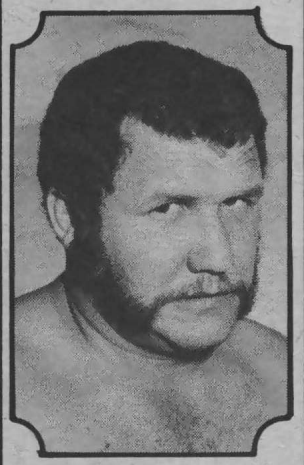


Champion:
NICK BOCKWINKLE



1—JIM BRUNZELL

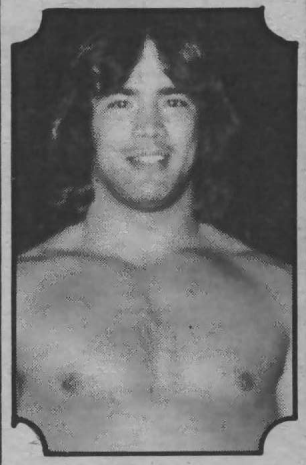
National Wrestling Alliance



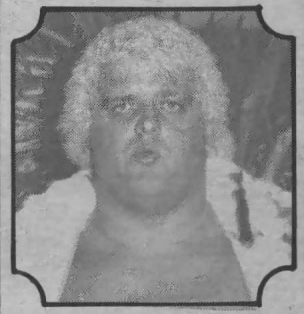
Champion:
HARLEY RACE

1—DUSTY RHODES

Most Popular Wrestlers

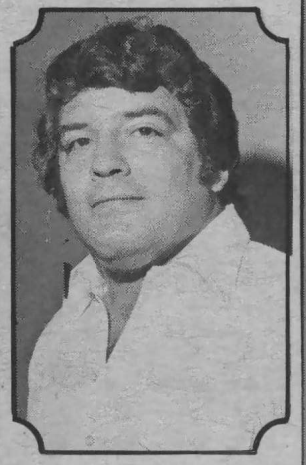


1—RICK STEAMBOAT



2—DUSTY RHODES

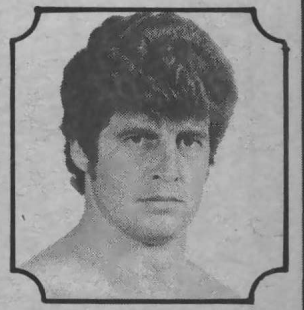
Most Hated Wrestlers



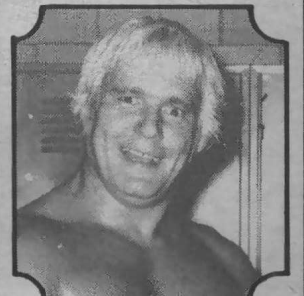
1—PAUL JONES

2—GREG VALENTINE

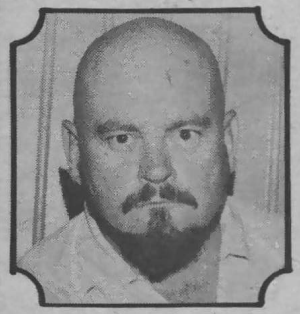
Tag Teams



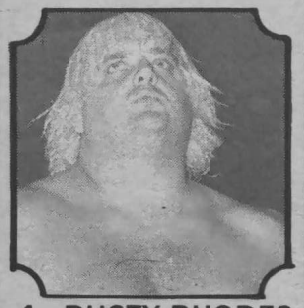
1—TONY GAREA & LARRY ZBYSZKO



2—PETER MAIVIA

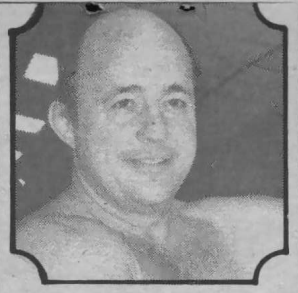


3—IVAN KOLOFF



4—DUSTY RHODES

5—IVAN PUTSKI
6—VICTOR RIVERA
7—BULLDOG BROWER
8—DINO BRAVO
9—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
10—SPIROS ARION



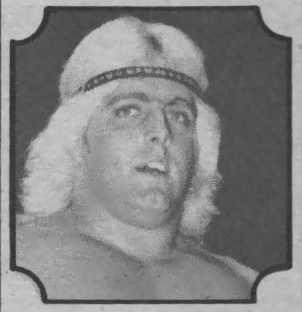
2—VERNE GAGNE

3—BILLY ROBINSON

4—GREG GAGNE

5—RAY STEVENS
6—LARRY HENNIG
7—PAT PATTERSON
8—BLACKJACK LANZA
9—MIGHTY IGOR
10—BOBBY DUNCUM

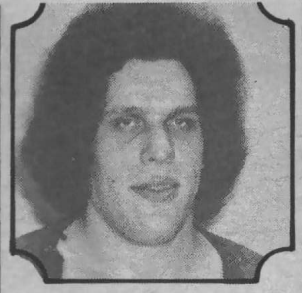
2—ANDRE THE GIANT



3—RIC FLAIR

4—MASKED SUPERSTAR

5—DICK SLATER
6—RICK STEAMBOAT
7—BRUISER
8—KEN PATERA
9—JACK BRISCO
10—TERRY FUNK



3—ANDRE THE GIANT

4—BOB BACKLUND

5—IVAN PUTSKI

6—JACK BRISCO
7—DINO BRAVO
8—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
9—WAHOO McDANIEL
10—VERNE GAGNE

3—RIC FLAIR

4—NICK BOCKWINKLE

5—HARLEY RACE

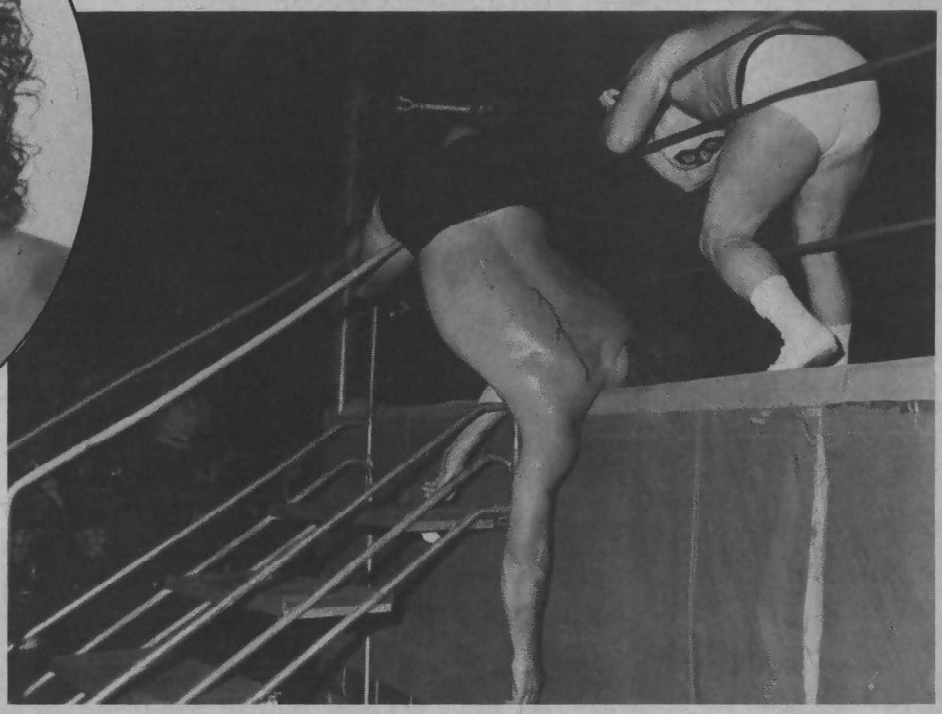
6—PETER MAIVIA
7—KEN PATERA
8—STAN HANSEN
9—VICTOR RIVERA
10—THE SPOILER

2—PAT PATTERSON & RAY STEVENS

3—JIMMY SNUKA & PAUL ORNDORFF

4—VALIANT BROTHERS
5—GREG GAGNE & JIM BRUNZELL
6—DORY FUNK JR. & TERRY FUNK
7—KEN PATERA & JOHN STUDD
8—KEVIN & DAVID VON ERICH
9—PAK SONG & MR. UGANDA
10—JACK & JERRY BRISCO

Peter Maivia,



The High Samoan Chief Peter Maivia (above), a recent convert to rulebreaking.

FIRST PETER MAIVIA. Then Paul Jones. Before it was Victor Rivera, Spiros Arion, and Ken Patera.

Men who have been scientific wrestlers for years have suddenly become rulebreakers. Peter Maivia and Paul Jones are only two examples of this horrifying trend. Those in the know are afraid Mr. Wrestling II is perilously close to joining the ranks of these hated traitors!

They were all once scientific wrestlers. Then, for reasons of greed, career frustrations or psychological disorders, they turned rulebreaker.

With each change, a shock was absorbed by the body of wrestling. Dismayed cries and betrayed howls surrounded the wrestlers. But the heartbroken cries of the fans went unheard.

Each time, the reaction was the same.

How could he do it?

Another may soon be entering the ranks. It is a horrifying thought. Above all else, he is a symbol of virtue, the one wrestler pointed to as an inspiration for all youngsters.

His name is Mr. Wrestling II.

He may turn rulebreaker.

That statement summarizes the recent difficulties of Mr. Wrestling II. First his career was rapidly ascending the Georgia wrestling mountain. From the low position of preliminary wrestler, he vaulted into the Georgia heavyweight title.

Suddenly, Masked Superstar won the title.

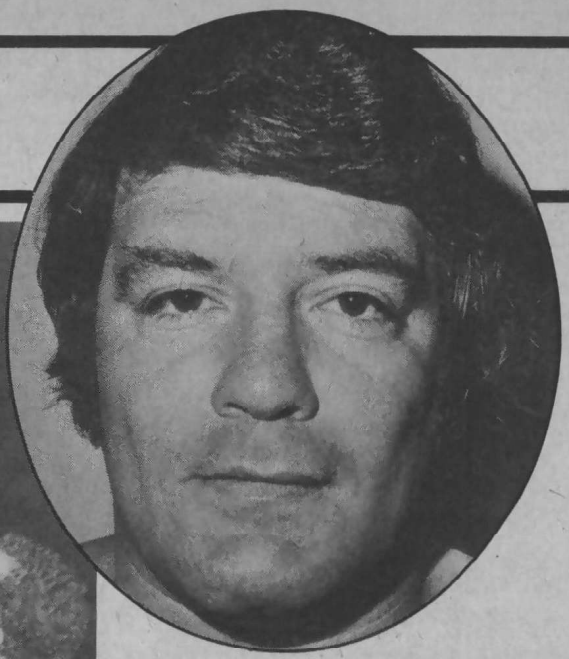
Then the descent began. It was a dangerous fall. Accompanying the decline were untrue whispers of physical decay, stinging rumors that he'd lost it.

Would Mr. Wrestling II be compelled to turn rulebreaker?

"I've been there before," II said,

IS MR. WRESTL

Paul Jones...



A long time hero, Paul Jones (above) now wrestles as a vicious rulebreaker.

Mr. Wrestling II in a wild match against Harley Race (above). II has always been a symbol of what scientific wrestling means to the sport, but rumors persist that he may join the growing group of Peter Maivia, Paul Jones and the others to become a rulebreaker. For the sake of wrestling, we hope the rumor is false.

"and I promised never to go back. But sometimes it gets very frustrating working so hard only to lose the title to a rulebreaking fiend like the Masked Superstar.

"Yes, I listened closely to what Maivia said and what Jones said. I'll admit that my reaction wasn't as violent as it was a couple of years ago when Patera turned rulebreaker.

"Maybe that means something. I don't know."

He follows the familiar pattern. First the career difficulties. A title is lost. Or a tag team partner gets all the glory. Then the cautious denials, the hints of treacherous contemplation.

"Rulebreaking is easy. I don't care what they say, it takes a lot more work to refine a maneuver than to bite someone's earlobe off.

"I wouldn't want to throw away all I've worked for. But maybe I should follow the trend."

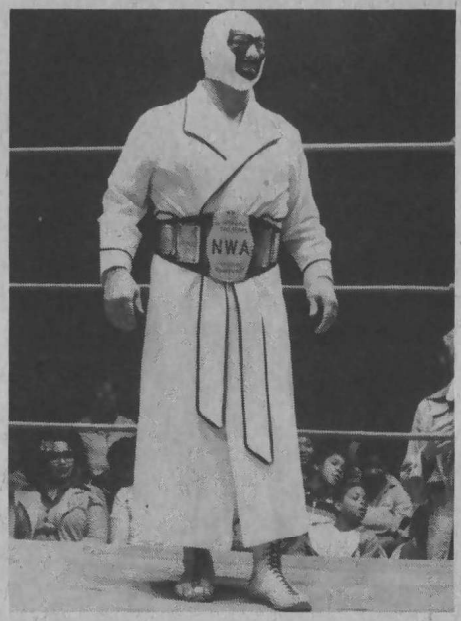
This rumor hasn't been started

ING II NEXT?

by any rulebreakers. It grows out of the same pool of integrity that Mr. Wrestling II has bathed in. There is no slimy self-serving deceit here. Only cool logic.

Paranoia feeds upon itself until it is a hungering creature, an object which always needs greater fears to survive. Thus the increasing number of rulebreaker converts worries everyone. No one is safe.

"I'd probably clean up as a rulebreaker," said II, with an unnatural gleam in his dark eyes. "It'd be an interesting twist to my career. Sometimes the same old style gets kind of boring.



Mr. Wrestling II bodyslams Harley Race (left). II (above) has held numerous individual and tag team titles.

"I know for sure I'd regain my Georgia title. Maybe I'd even take on a major federation champ. Yeah, it would be interesting."

Just as quickly as it twinkled, the light died, replaced by a dark, serious look which creases his mask.

"But every time I think of turning rulebreaker, I consider one factor. No, I don't think of myself. I think of my loyal fans. The people who have stuck by me all these years. I can imagine the rage of the press and the anger of fellow wrestlers. But to be booed by my fans! I couldn't take that!"

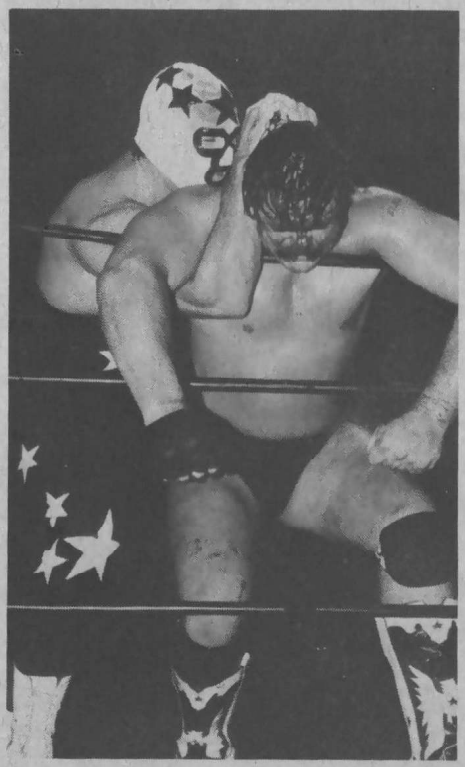
We'll have to see. □

INSIDE WRESTLING

33

CAPSULE PROFILE

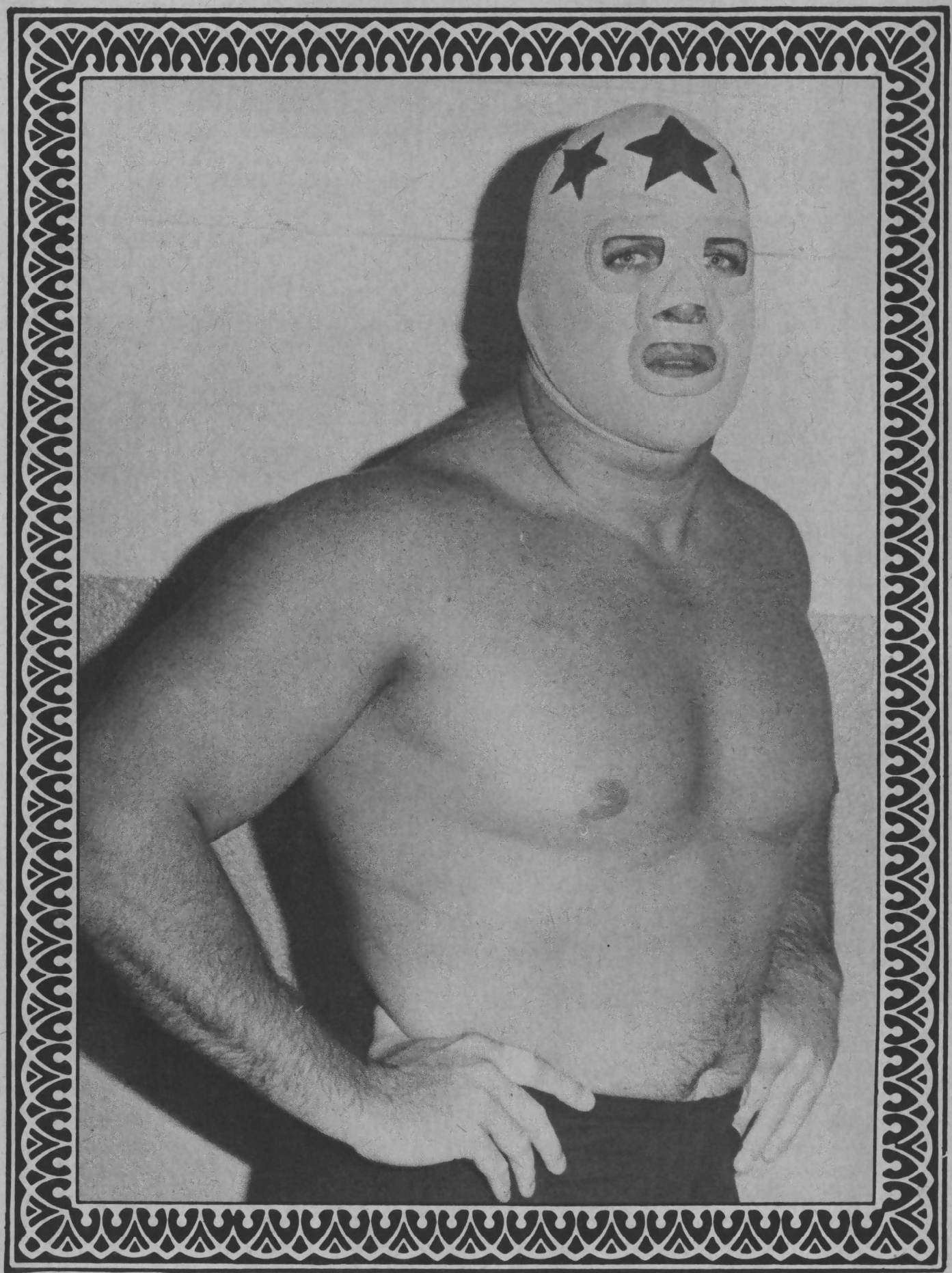
MASKED SUPERSTAR



The Masked Superstar drags a helpless Mighty Igor around the ring (above) in a chain match. The mighty masked man has Blackjack Mulligan in trouble (left).

A SOCIAL MISFIT who turned to wrestling as a way to make a living *("I don't like people. What's there to like?")* . . . *The grotesque mask amplifies the inhuman savagery of his twisted soul ("It's my face and only I got a right to see it")* . . . Currently the Georgia champion, a title he mocks with his every move *("There's no title worthy of me. Until there is one, I'll take what I can and step on it")* . . . Master of the nervehold, a horrible maneuver meant to dismember a foe's limb *("Chop, chop, chop a limb, rip it right out")* . . . Has had several managers, but each one has been fired *("They wanted money from me")* . . . Developing a feud with Mr. Wrestling II . . . Avoided by all decent members of wrestling *("Jealous imbeciles")* . . . Was responsible for the early retirement of two young wrestlers, whose careers he ruined *("I like bandages. But only on scientific wrestlers")* . . . Age, size, and weight are impossible to determine . . . Some believe he has access to black magic and derives his strength from supernatural encounters *("At least demons don't smile and wave to the fans")* . . . Voted 1978's Venemous Villain Award by the Atlanta League of Women Wrestling Fans *("I wouldn't accept it. I woulda have had to talk to them old bags")*. □

CAPSULE PROFILE PIN-UP



MASKED SUPERSTAR

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each day, out of the thousands of letters we receive, hundreds of them are from fans asking the whereabouts of their favorite wrestler. In this special column, we will try to answer the questions you ask the most!

GREG VALENTINE

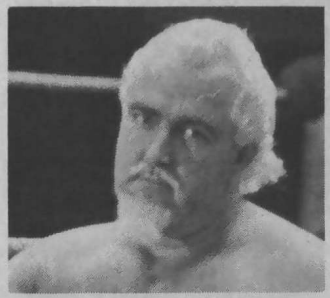
The Blond Terror is invading the WWWF! His target: Bob Backlund's belt. Valentine is seeking fresh blood and has always resented Backlund's popularity. His long-time hungering for a world belt will make him a very determined foe for Bob Backlund.

RUFUS R. JONES

After a period of wandering through the AWA, Jones is settling primarily in Georgia. His desire to eliminate Abdullah the Butcher's poisonous influence was one of the reasons. Feuds and friendships will bring Rufus back to the AWA for occasional matches.

GENE KINISKI

The former NWA champion emerged from semi-retirement to make a special appearance in Toronto recently. Though cautious about future plans, Kiniski would like to wrestle NWA champ Harley Race.



LUKE GRAHAM

An uncertain trial lies ahead of Graham after his departure from the WWWF. Beset by mental problems and championship disillusionments, Luke has locked himself at home to chart his future plans.

THE SECRET OF PERFECT PUTTING

Here's the key to perfect putting and lower scores. You will learn never-before-told secrets to improve your game. You must start putting like a pro or you pay absolutely nothing. For the first time "the secret of perfect putting!" has been analyzed. Read this book. It's a must.

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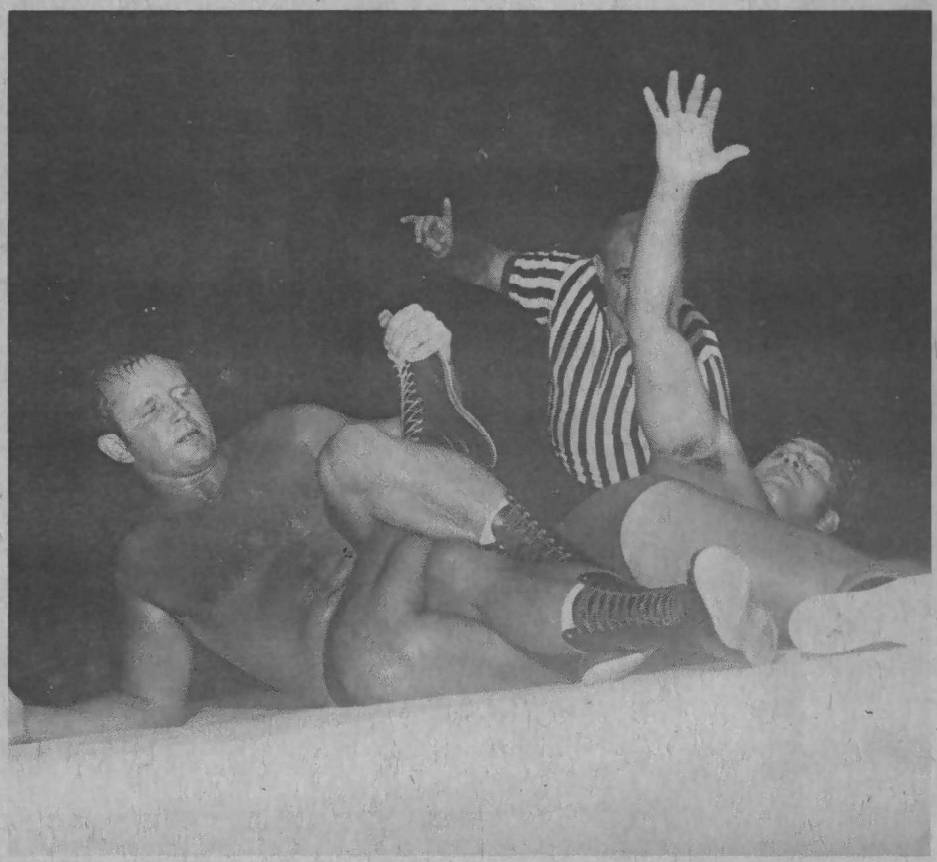
ONE ON ONE

(Continued from Page 23)



DF: Or father.

JB: Yup.

DF: See, our people have a feud which stems from plain old-fashioned clashing. It's just a case of the Funks having to prove they're superior to the Briscos, though everyone knows that to be so. Except for the Briscos.

JB: It's the other way around, isn't it?

DF: Now, now.

JB: No reason to blow my own horn. I've been champion of the NWA. Twice.

DF: Which means you lost it twice, too.

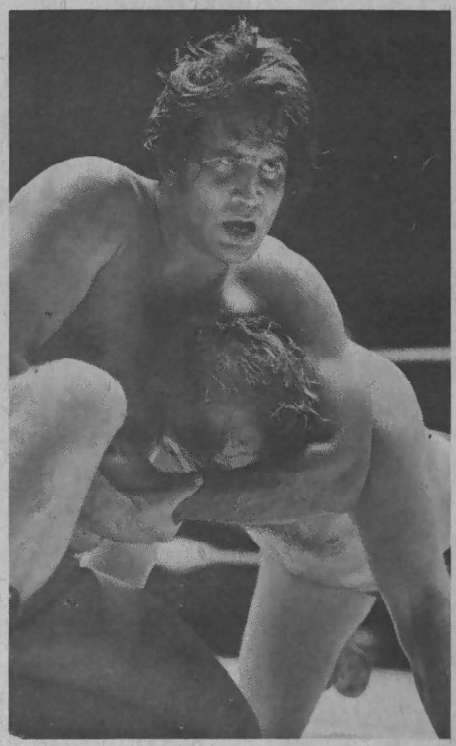
JB: You only had one reign.

DF: Four years long, buddy.

JB: A dark day for wrestling (laughs).

DF: Better me than a rule-breaker.

JB: The nice thing about our families is the respect.



Jack Brisco has Dory Funk Jr. tied up in a headlock (above). Dory uses an effective leglock (top) on Brisco in a June, 1970 encounter.

DF: We get carried away, but there's always that line we'll never cross.

JB: That's because there's some unwritten rules we follow.

DF: Or that we're the last of a vanishing breed.

JB: You feel that way, too?

DF: Yeah, I speak to kids today, the rookies or guys with just a couple of years experience. They think that you have to maim a guy to win. They don't wrestle anymore.

Dory Funk Jr. backdrops Brisco in one of their most memorable matches in Japan (below). They have faced each other several times over the years.

JB: It's sad. We're still young, but sometimes I feel like we belong to another era.

DF: I don't know, I think fans want to see good, hard wrestling. They know that our families will provide it every time.

JB: Dory, gotta go. Nice talking to you.

DF: Watch out for foreign objects. □

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ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 8)

Fellow rulebreaking champion Nick Bockwinkle (left) and Harley Race (right) are among the charter members of a new rulebreaking league that was recently formed. I found out about the league and spoke with the executive officers. I guess I was lucky to get out alive with wrestlers like Ric Flair and Peter Maivia there.

Was I ever wrong!

To relate all the minor details of my meeting with the eight executive officers of the league would require too much space. I may write a book about it.

Let me say that Harley Race was there. So was Ric Flair. Greg Valentine. Ken Patera. Peter Maivia. Victor Rivera. Spiros Arion. Lou Albano.

I asked them if rulebreaker would wrestle rulebreaker.

"That's stupid," snorted Albano. "It'll be rulebreaker against scientific wrestler. It won't change."

And he smirked. I knew that Albano expression. And I realized the clever plan.

All that would change would be the power. Substitute one form of discrimination for another. Now scientific wrestlers would lose the close decision. Now scientific wrestlers would be unfairly victimized in the media.

No. I would not tolerate it. Fairness is essential to the sport. Brutality on any level must be destroyed.

This new federation would simply give authority to men like Lou Albano. Irresponsible madmen. They would seek to humiliate, then ultimately destroy scientific wrestlers.

And once the removal of decency was complete, the scientific wrestlers would be little more than mindless slaves for the cruelty of the rulebreakers.

Yes, in the pursuit of fairness I exposed myself to foolishness. I went too far. I was as bad as Randy Gordon, the sickening defender of scientific wrestlers. Or Dan Shocket, the venemous friend of the rulebreakers.

Somewhere along the line I had lost my roots. No more. I would seek truth. Whoever the offender. ☐

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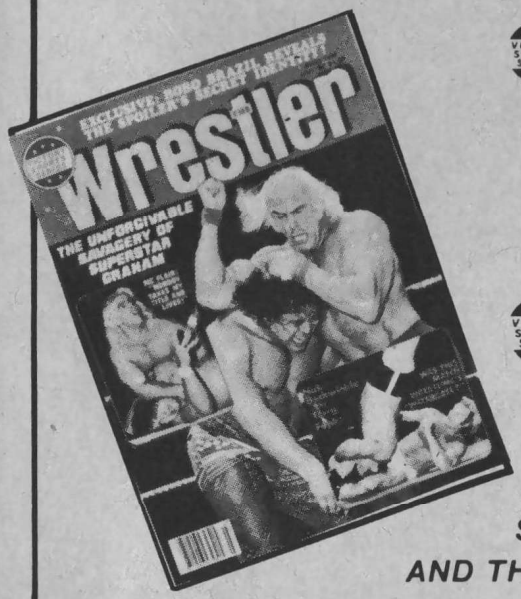

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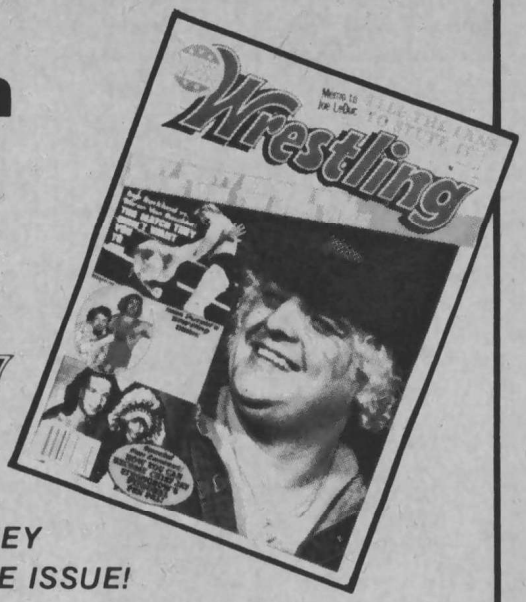

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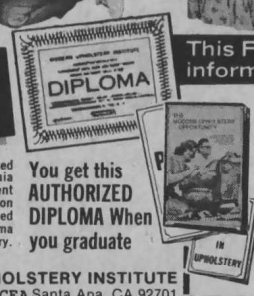

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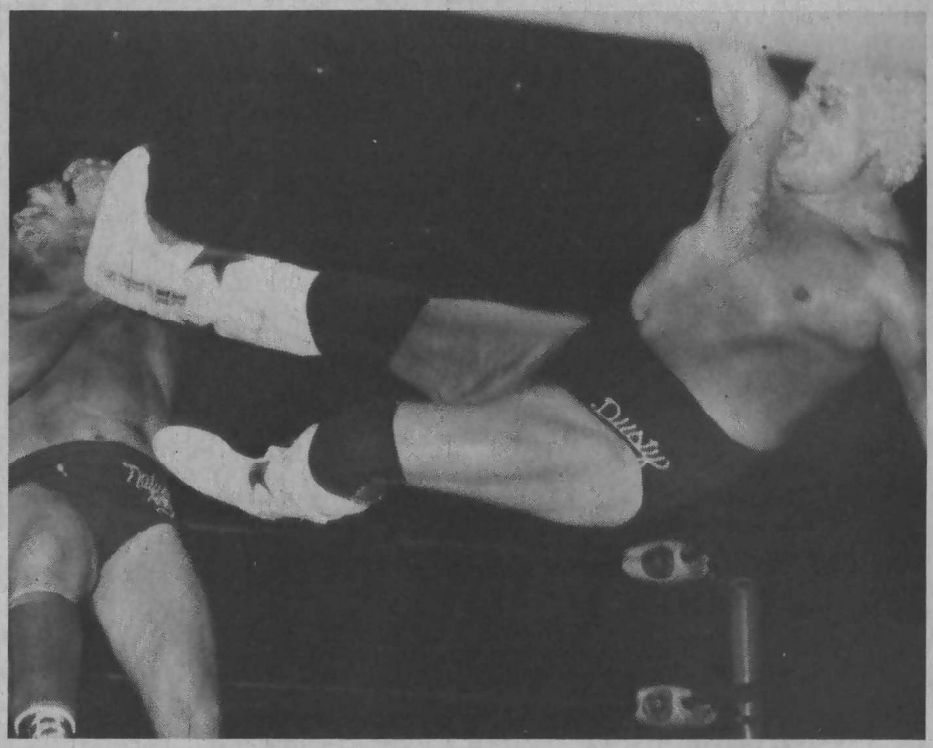
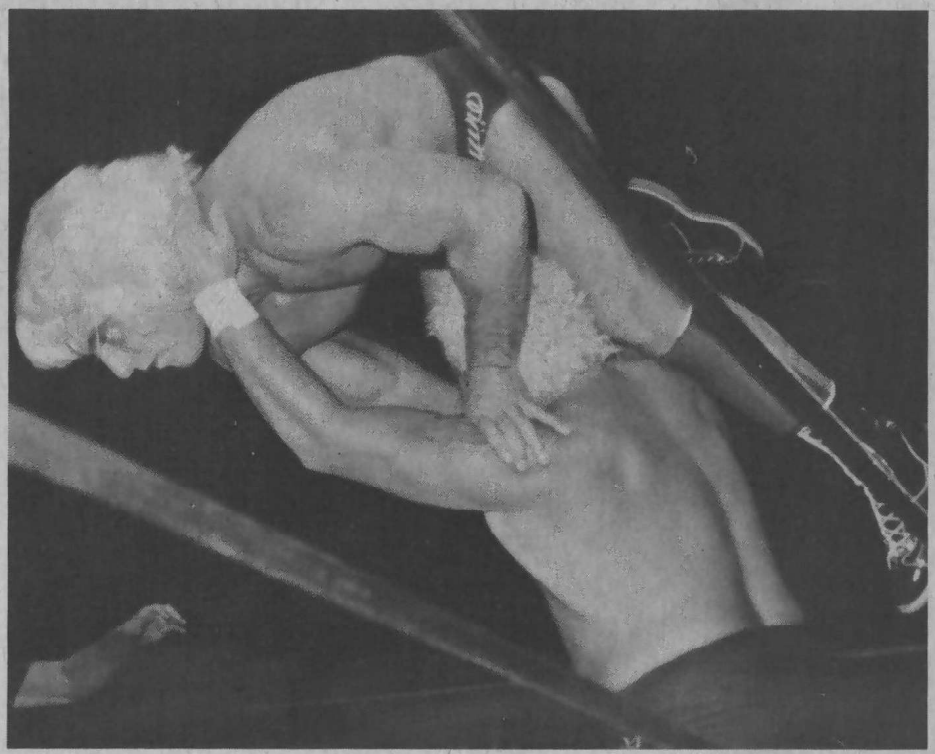
RIC FLAIR

(Continued from Page 33)



Above: Today Rhodes is proud of his scientific skills. Here he uses a perfect flying dropkick to send Flair reeling. Below: Flair goes flying with the help of a Rhodes' snapmare. Dusty feels the only way to erase the crimes of his past is to destroy Ric Flair.



about my bionic elbow being loaded.

"So I can't escape it. And that's what hurts so much. Every time this happens, I feel I'm losing all the good will and respect and trust I've built up over the years since I turned from rulebreaking."

Rhodes is correct, but only

partially so. His volatile temper is legendary in wrestling and has hurtled him into many a frenzied brawl. But in brawls against opponents other than Flair, that cycle he spoke of is not complete.

Only against Ric Flair do the whispers of Rhodes the rulebreaker pop up. Only after a match against Flair do the hushed accusations fall noisily against Rhodes' career.

Rhodes has two alternatives in dealing with this problem. He can avoid future matches against Flair, a path his competitive personality instinctively rejects. Or he can come to grips with what he once was. He must come to grips with what he once was.

"I'm not saying it was all bad," said Rhodes, an uncharacteristically somber expression draped over his features. "I had some good times when I was an Outlaw. I learned an awful lot about wrestling and about myself.

"But I get the shudders when I think how vicious I was to opponents and how I disregarded the fans as well.

"I'd never want that to happen again. And, ah, maybe I get sort of frustrated when I see someone like Flair. I know what he's doing and I'm kind of hoping he'll change. I hope he'll see that the kind of life he's leading is all wrong.

"Some day he'll realize that. He better. No one can continue that type of rulebreaking without getting his head bashed in for good."

Flair is predictably disdainful of both Rhodes' pain and advice.

"Fatso Rhodes is a scientific wrestler 'cause he wasn't man enough to continue rulebreaking," Ric said. "Lames turn to good guy ways. Real men like myself can go on forever, ripping faces off and breaking limbs." □

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BODYSLAMS & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 10)

Yes, Paul Jones will be NWA champion within the year. It has to happen. Psychologically and emotionally, he's ready. The man always had the physical tools to be king. He's doing so well that NWA king Harley Race can no longer avoid him. Now that Jones is wrestling at his best, Race is in real trouble. Hell, all wrestlers are in real trouble.

Jones will be unstoppable.

At first, I must admit to being skeptical about Jones' transformation. I've seen popular wrestlers turn into men before, only to have them return to the ranks of popular punks. Jones seemed like one of those. But then I talked to the man. I trust him.

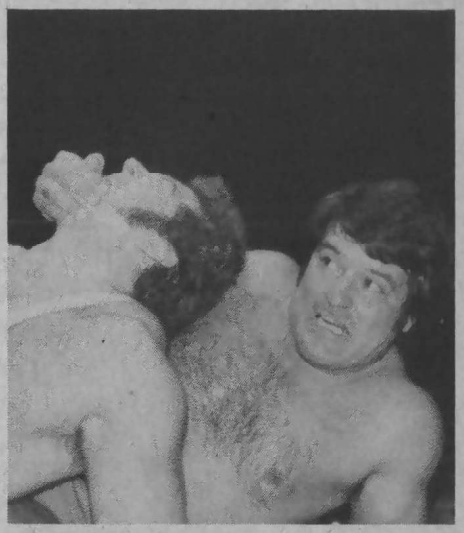
"It was in the battle royal," he explained, "when I realized this was just one too many matches I might lose because of trying to please the fans. And what had they done for me? The battle royal money would pay my rent, let me enjoy the good life and put me that much closer to another title shot. So I decided the fans can take their admiration and shove it. Now I'm my own man. It feels great.

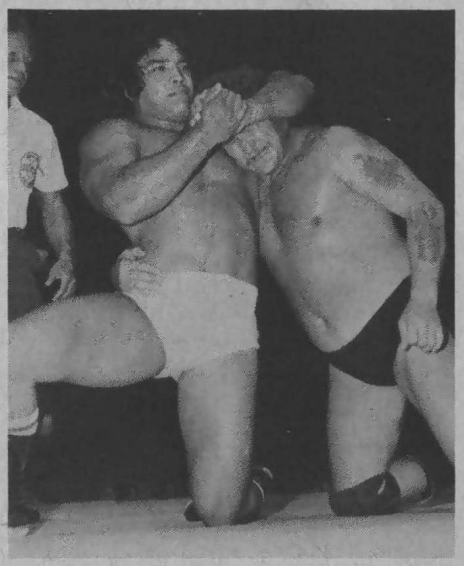
"For the first time in my life, everything is working out fine. The clowns who used to be my friends are running scared. Referees don't hamper me and let me tell you something. Those people respect me now. I used to think I was respected. Hell, they just didn't want me to cause any trouble. It was never respect. Well, it's sure respect now!

"For the first time, I'm using all my potential. It's like a one-armed man being given another arm after so many years. I'm free at last.

"All my life I wanted to be champion. Then I started to settle for being respected. Now, I'm back to wanting the title. I don't settle for anything any more. I'm a man who can't be stopped. Being champ is the only important thing. To hell with everything and everyone else!"

For the first time in his life, Paul Jones knows where he wants to go and how to get there. He'll make it, too. It's a much easier journey when he doesn't have to carry the fans on his back. □





Jones has former enemy Ken Patera on the mat (above). Jones has wisened up and now calls Patera a friend. Rick Steamboat, one of the worst crybabies in wrestling, applies a headlock to an innocent Harley Race (below).

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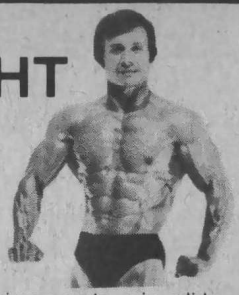

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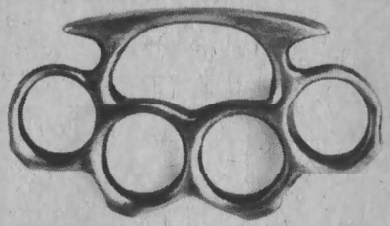

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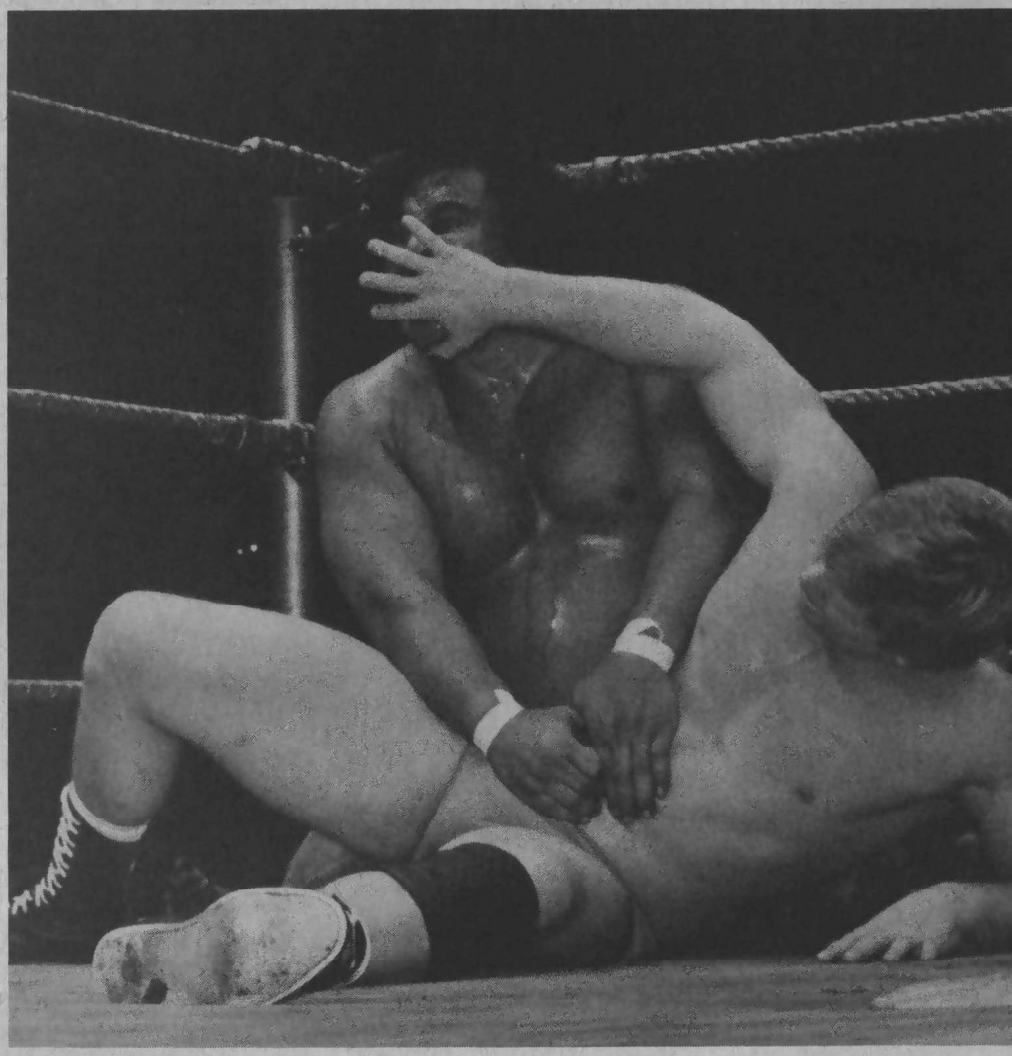
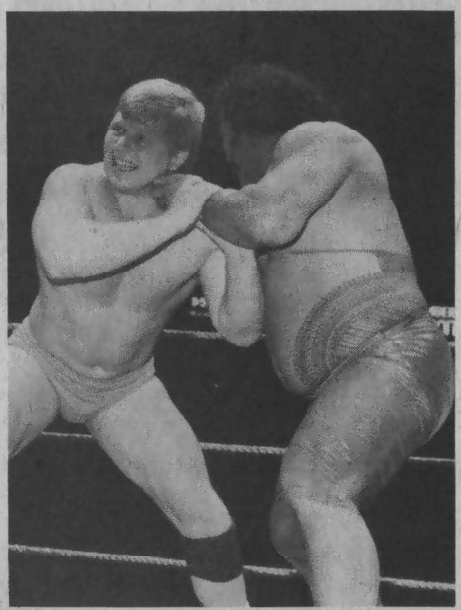
Backlund vs. Maivia

(Continued from Page 35)



Backlund tries to escape as Maivia applies a devastating stomach rake (above). Backlund seems to be looking for help as Maivia grabs him by the neck (below). Their battles are epics.



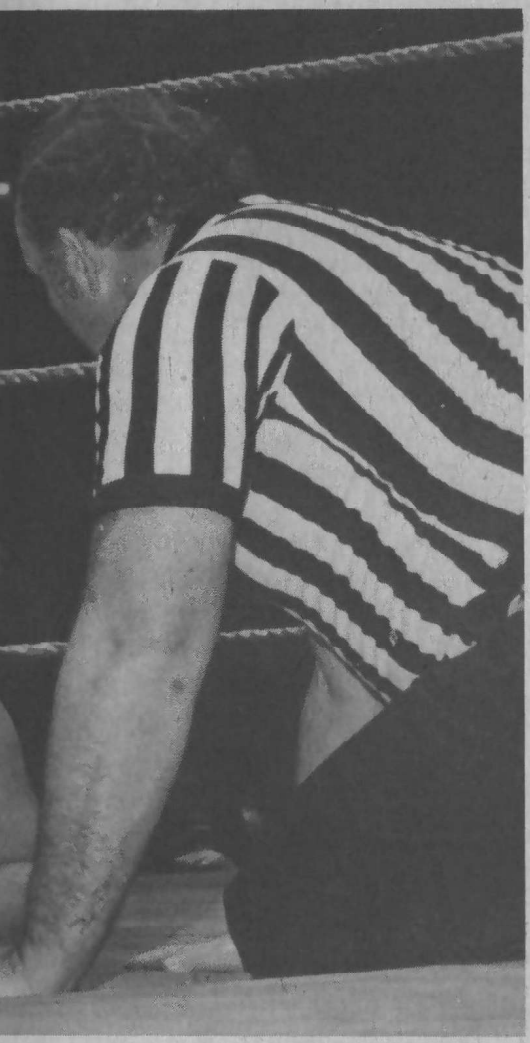
once and for all," shouted Maivia. "I'm tired of this feud. I've got better things to do with my life than waste my time wrestling a clown like that.

"Once I win the belt from Howdy Doody, I'll really start after my goal. The extinction of every scientific wrestler in the WWWF. I don't want any rematches. I want them ending up in hospitals."

Maivia cannot stay on the subject of his future for very long. He ponders the various wrestlers. His eyes darken, his face swells and reddens and his heavy fingers form a twisting, churning mass of resentment.

Hatred.

"I can't stand the sight of his face. I want it to be dripping with blood. I have never hated any



man as I hate Bob Backlund. I want to feel his blood trickling between my fingers. I want to feel his bones snap in my hand. I want to hear his screams in my ears.

"Then I want to hear silence. The silence of an unconscious Bob Backlund."

An unsettling tremor flows through this rivalry and elevates it to more than a feud. Friendship was ignored. Moral principles were shattered.

The bonds which once linked them were twisted over the thin line separating love from hate.

Hatred.

It took very little for them to hate. Very little. It will take much, much more to settle it. Perhaps a life is the price.

Hatred. □

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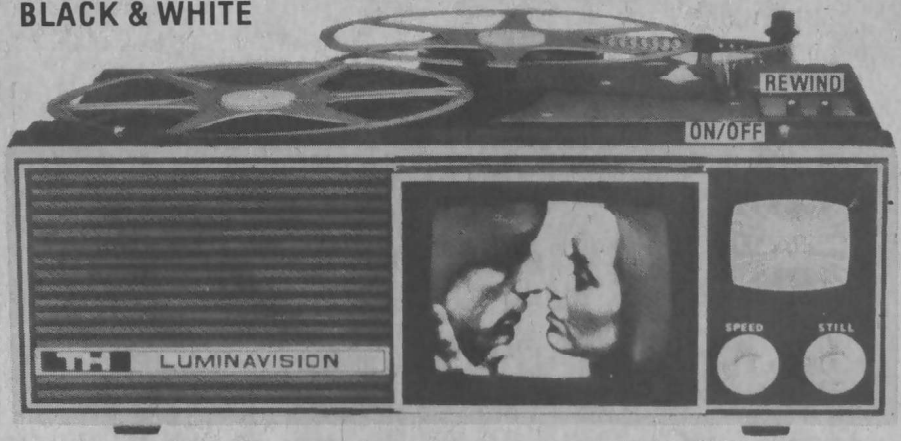

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 12)

MULLIGAN IS A PHONY

The March 1979 issue of INSIDE WRESTLING had a story on a wrestler I follow closely, Blackjack Mulligan. All my friends and I knew that when he turned into a scientific wrestler, he was full of it. He was too mean and vicious to ever change so suddenly. Flair and Valentine and Von Raschke probably paid him off to spy on the scientific wrestlers. I feel you did a decent job of questioning Mulligan's change in the story. He'll be using his dreaded claw to rip out the guts of wonderful wrestlers like Rick Steamboat soon enough. Remember, I told you so!

JEFF WEITZ
Gercy Acy, Md.

LEWIN GO HOME

Who does Mark Lewin think he is? He rushes out of his apartment and flies across the country to go get Dusty Rhodes because Gary Hart asks him to. Your article (March 1979) on this subject disgusted me. Rhodes is one of the few wrestlers alive today who the fans can identify with. He cares about us as if we were all his relatives. If Lewin harms "The American Dream" in any way, I'll personally go straight to wherever he's wrestling and challenge him to a "loser leaves planet" match. We'll see who wins!

DUSTY DIAMOND
Sarasota, Fla.

BAN RANDY GORDON

I'm sick and tired of reading all these stupid letters from the stupid readers of this magazine about how this rulebreaker or that rulebreaker should be banned. What do they think wrestling is, a Boy Scout troop meeting? It is a rough profession

where you have to destroy the opponent before he gets you. How many times have you seen so-called scientific wrestlers lose their cool and mix it up by returning the rulebreakers' tactics. If they didn't, they'd never survive!

The only man who should be banned for his lies and treachery is Randy Gordon of your milky magazine. He spends all his time playing tricks on honest hard-working rulebreakers. Why doesn't he get up off his behind and get a real job?

HELENE NIGHTINGALE
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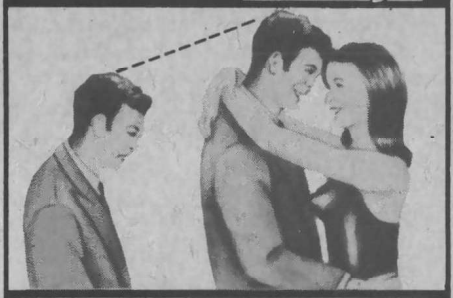

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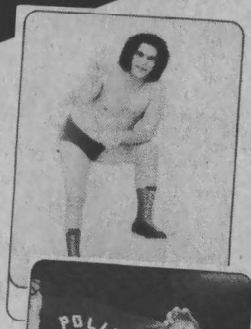

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BEHIND THE DOOR

(Continued from Page 18)

thing that ever happened to me. He got all the press. He got all the money. He got all the credit. All the while, my career suffered. No more. I don't need Steamboat and I especially don't need snoopy reporters like you hanging around, trying to talk me into a change of heart. I'm being nice to you now. But if you come around here ever again, or if I catch you prying around my dressing room, it'll be the last dressing room you'll ever be in. Get lost!"

Paul Jones destroys a picture of his former tag team partner, Rick Steamboat. "I wish this was him in person," said Jones.

Jones' new approach to wrestling appears to be an acute case of jealousy. It's easy to be envious of a popular and talented young man like Rick Steamboat. I'm not going to lose sleep over Paul's conversion. I'd get old very quickly if I worried about every scientific wrestler who turns rulebreaker. What annoys me are Jones' charges against Steamboat:

"He got all the press. He got all the money. He got all the credit." None of those statements are true. Occasionally, fans yelled a little louder when Steamboat was announced, but that's understandable. When Steamboat and Jones teamed up, however, the press coverage of their matches was always objective. The glory was spread out evenly, as was the money they shared. Jones was just looking for an excuse, a copout. He knows fans of rulebreakers are much more gullible than fans of scientific wrestlers. He decided to evoke their sympathies and manipulate their feeble minds rather than remain a scientific wrestler. I feel sorry for you, Paul, very sorry. You will regret the day you became a rulebreaker. You let yourself and wrestling down.

***

The magnificently-muscled Tony Atlas and rulebreaker Ken Patera recently engaged in a combination boxing-wrestling match. Atlas, fed up with Patera's constant use of illegal closed-fist smashes, challenged Patera to a 10-round contest. The hulking Patera accepted.

After getting battered for the first five rounds, Patera was knocked out by a right to his Jello chin in the sixth round. Although he claims he beat the count of the referee, don't believe it. I was at ringside and can truthfully report that Patera did not even come close to beating the count. Face it, Ken. You are a loser! □

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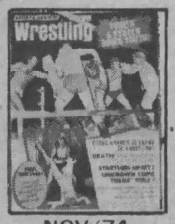
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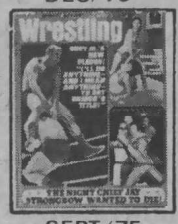
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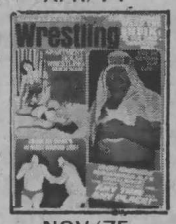
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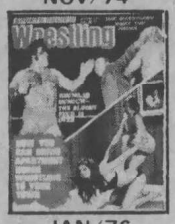
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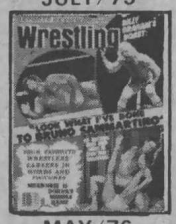
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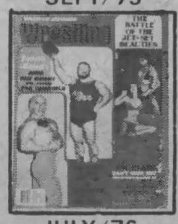
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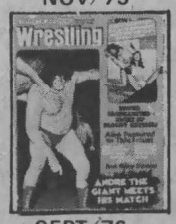
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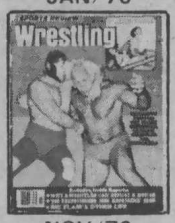
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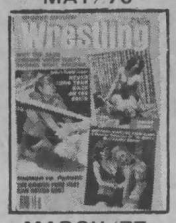
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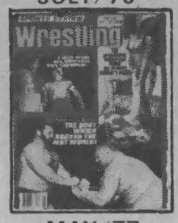
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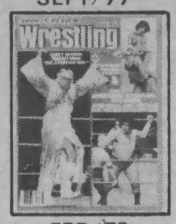
JAN/78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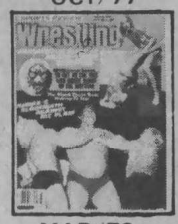
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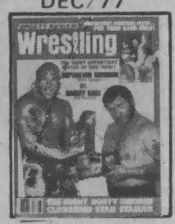
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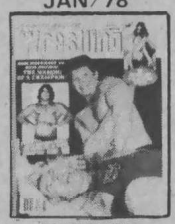
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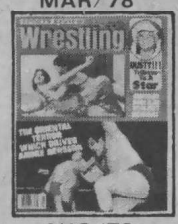
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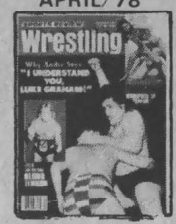
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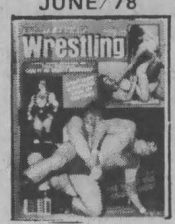
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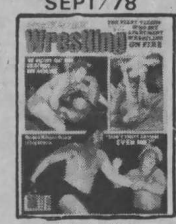
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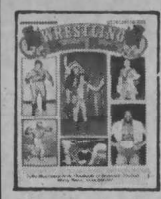
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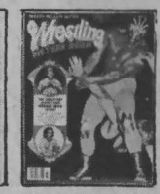
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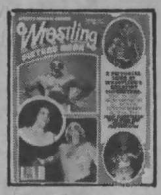
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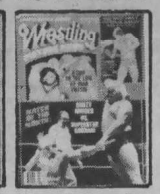
Pic. Bk/Spr 78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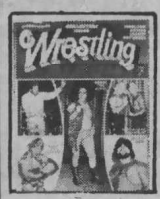
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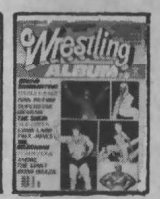
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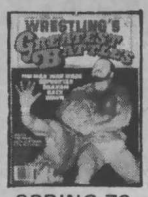

SPRING 78

SUMMER 78

FALL 78

WINTER 78

SPRING 79

BEST OF WRESTLER

FALL 76

WINTER 76

SPRING 77

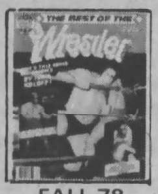
SUMMER 77

FALL 77

WINTER 77

SPRING 78

SUMMER 78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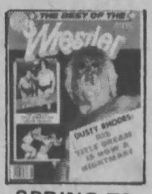
WIN/78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SUPERSTARS

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JULY 77

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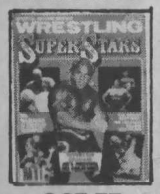
OCT 77

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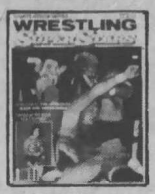
FEB 78

APRIL 78

JUNE 78

FALL 78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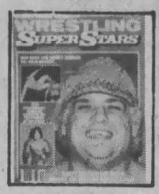
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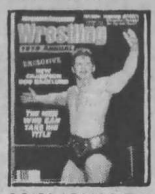
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- ☐ Picture Book/Fall 78
- ☐ Picture Book/Win 78
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BEST OF WRESTLER

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- ☐ Wrestling Album 2

GREATEST BATTLES

- ☐ Great Battles Apr 77
- ☐ Great Battles July 77
- ☐ Great Battles Fall 77
- ☐ Great Battles Win 77
- ☐ Great Battles Spr 78
- ☐ Great Battles Sum/78
- ☐ Great Battles Fall/78
- ☐ Great Battles Win/78
- ☐ Great Battles Spr/79

SUPERSTARS

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- ☐ Superstars/Apr 77
- ☐ Superstars/July 77
- ☐ Superstars/Aug 77
- ☐ Superstars/Oct 77
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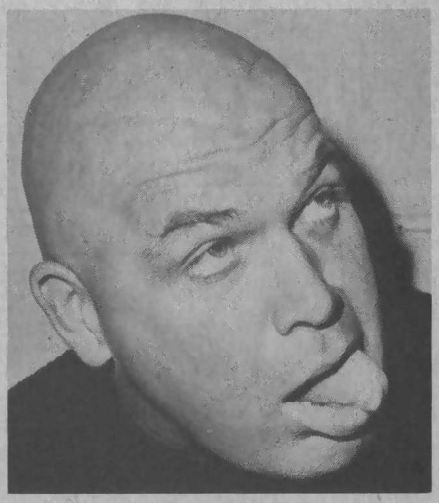
THE INSIDER

(Continued from Page 14)

explain the odd behavior of Steele while he is in the ring?"

Dr. Regan could only guess. "I feel that the grunts and animalistic groans are attempts at expression. When one possesses a mind like George's, there are few people in the world to communicate with. George is so frustrated in his inability to reach anyone that he groans, drools, and tortures himself trying to escape from his horrible life. The green tongue he exposes is a result of overstimulation of certain glands. George works himself



up to a fever pitch and his insides are rattling until he lets go by whipping an opponent.

"Another phenomenon we have tried to analyze is his insistence on biting and eating the ring turnbuckles. We believe George is trying to eat from the tree of knowledge, much like people of average intelligence symbolically try to gain wisdom by eating fruit. George is a sick man and I hope Captain Albano will allow us to research this unusual case further."

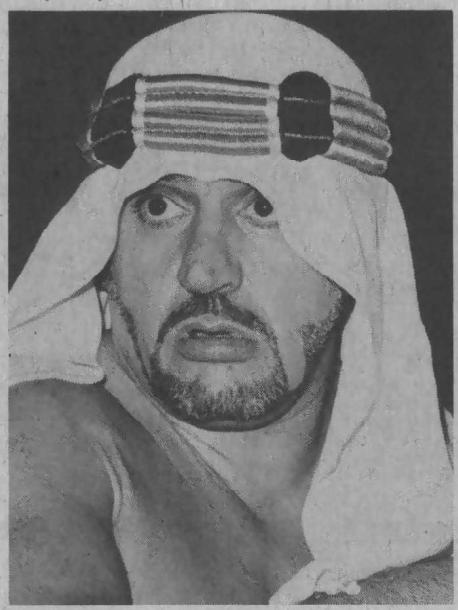
George Steele a genius? I still don't believe it!

RUMOR VS. FACT

RUMOR: The Sheik has been cloned! As hideous as it seems, the rumors have been flying out of the Midwest. In a few years, wrestling will be dominated by thousands of little Arab menaces throwing fireballs at everyone.

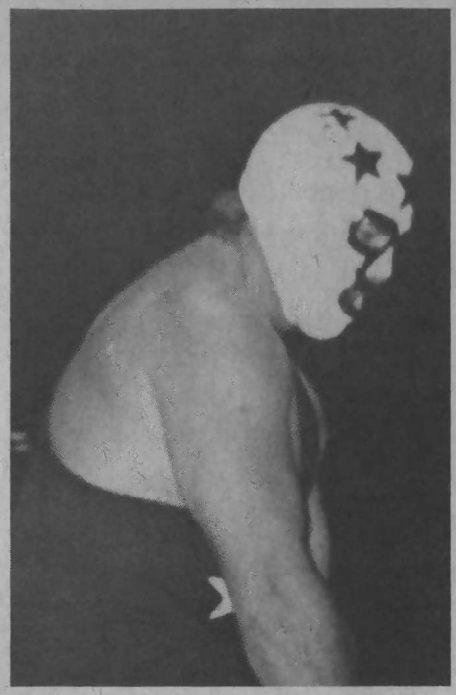
FACT: I have worked very hard on this story and I have found no evidence that the rumor is true. Unfortunately, I have also found no evidence to completely dispute the story. The Sheik would not comment on the story and his interpreter was rude and evasive. My editor is thinking of sending me to the Middle East to check on this story at its source. If I go, I'll give you a report in an upcoming column.

I asked Albano why Steele's tongue juts out of his mouth (left). The Captain says that George is trying to express himself. The Sheik (below) has not been cloned, despite persistent rumors.



INJURY REPORT

IVAN KOLOFF has the Russian flu! I don't particularly care about Ivan's health (we haven't gotten along since he broke my glasses while I was trying to interview him). However a ringside observer noticed that Koloff sneezed



The Masked Superstar (above) suffered a recent injury when his masked cat scratched him at home.

right on Bob Backlund's face during an East Coast tag team match a week ago. Let's hope Bob takes Vitamin C. Koloff will do anything to weaken him.

MASKED SUPERSTAR, the new Georgia heavyweight champion, has suffered his first post-title injury. But like 90% of all injuries, it occurred in his home! His cat, named "The Masked Meow" (the cat also sports a mask) scratched him while he was coming out of the bathtub. A scar remains, but stitches successfully closed up the cut on his left leg. I'll watch for bleeding scar tissue in his future matches.

BRUISER BRODIE is currently undergoing serious root canal work at a Texas dental clinic. Seems continuous pounding in the face during matches has severely damaged Brodie's molars. It would only be proper for the dentists to pull out all of Brodie's teeth. Then his smile can be as ugly as his hair.

Steven Farhood reporting. Remember, it's not goodbye, it's see you next month! □

MUHAMMAD ALI. THE LEGEND LIVES ON!

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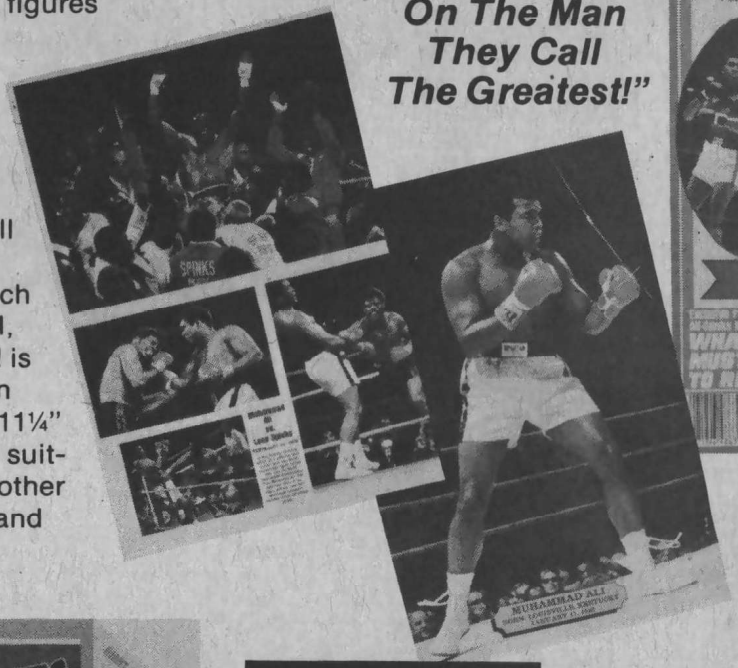

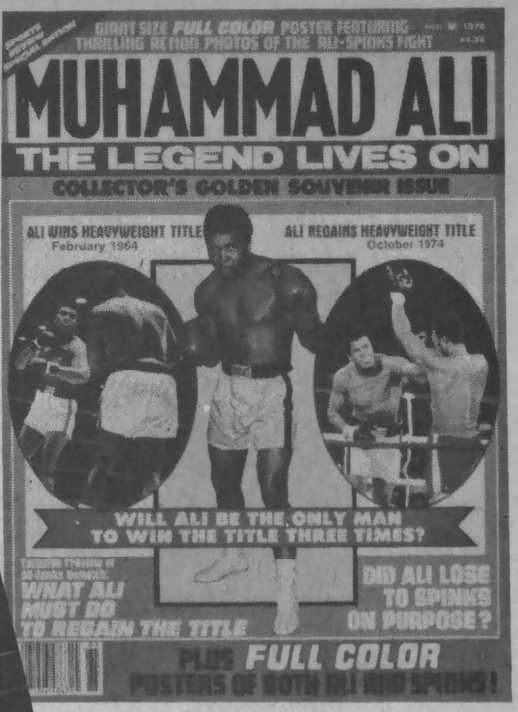
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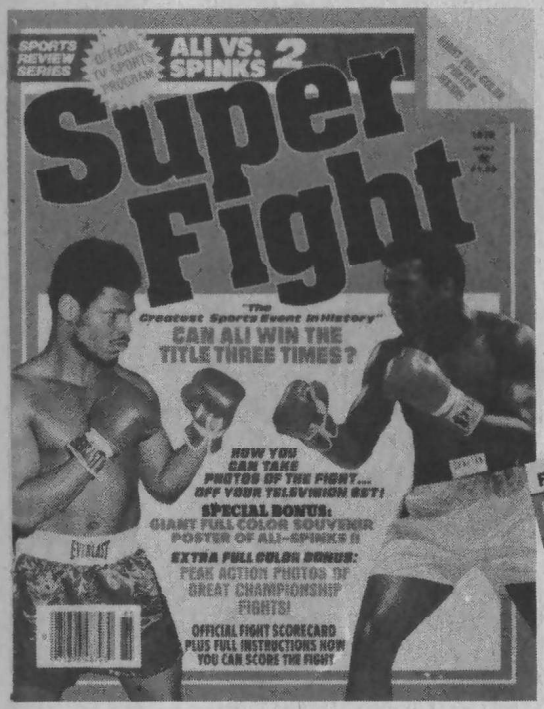
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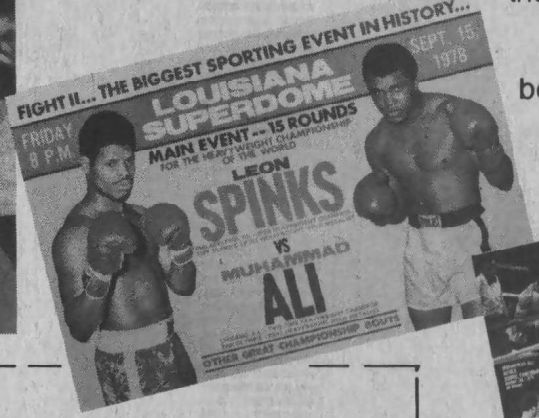

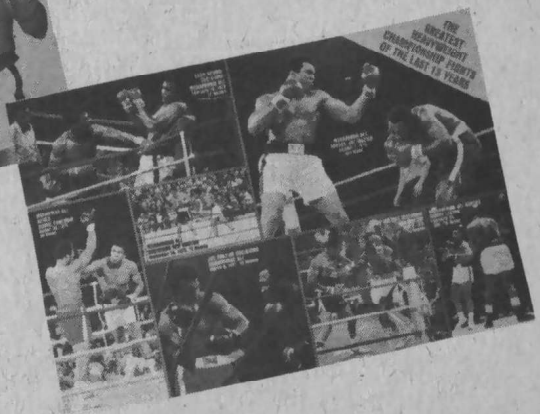

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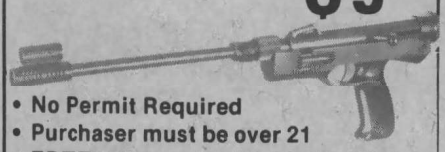

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ANDRE THE GIANT

(Continued from Page 37)

that very night on the phone. Andre, reluctant at first, agreed to rearrange his busy schedule and make a short visit to AWA territory. It was a favor the scientific wrestlers of the AWA can never repay him for.

Orton Jr. can be praised for only one thing. He met Andre in the ring with confidence and aggressiveness. Heenan, however, was less agreeable.

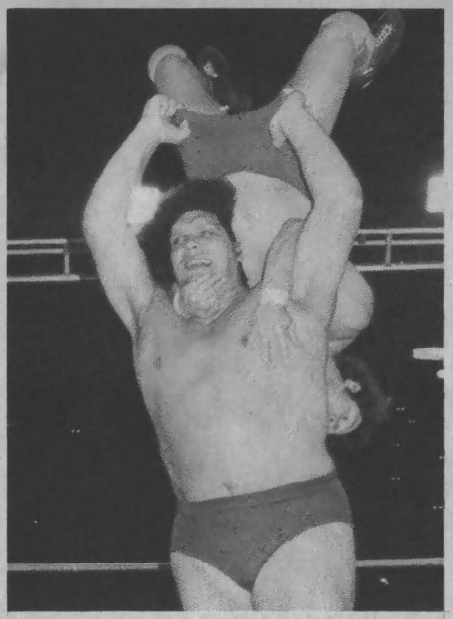
"Who the hell does Andre think he is coming in here like a savior and demanding to meet Orton? That foreign freak belongs in a circus sideshow. If he wants one of my rugged boys, he can have whoever he chooses. As long as he knows he'll be going back to whatever the hell planet he came from in a casket!"

The match was arranged. Every AWA scientific wrestler was at ringside. It may have been the most important match in AWA history.

Orton suffered from a casualty few wrestlers experience when they meet Andre the Giant. He was overconfident.

"It probably stems from the fact that Orton has had so much success recently against the best the AWA has to offer," Andre later explained. "I could sense from the maneuvers he attempted that he had total control and confidence. He's tough, but I think I knocked him down a few notches. At least I hope I did for the sake of the AWA."

Don't fret, Andre. Orton learned a lesson he won't soon forget. Thousands of ecstatic fans and dozens of respectable scientific wrestlers were thrilled by the results of the encounter. Andre whipped Orton in the neutral corners. The Giant



Up and over sails Orton as Andre catches him in a giant backflip. Andre makes this hold devastating due to his size.

whipped Orton in the rule-breaker's corner, right above the disgusting grimace of Bobby Heenan. He whipped Orton in his own corner. Heenan, who desperately wanted to interfere on behalf of his suffering grappler, was powerless. He wasn't going to try any devious tricks with men such as Robinson, Hennig, and Gagne at ringside. Much like hit man Luca Brasi in the movie "The Godfather," hit man Bob Orton Jr. finally ran into a man he couldn't conquer. He was finally repaid for all the broken bones and bloody brows he had caused. Andre the Giant had done his duty.

"Andre came, conquered, and left," a jubilant Verne Gagne said. "We all felt he was the only man in wrestling who could do what had to be done here. I guess we were perfectly right. The AWA is forever in debt to him. He freed us from the reign of terror of Heenan and his miserable bunch of mugs. But something tells me Heenan will be back even more dangerous than ever. We haven't seen the last of Heenan or Orton."

Probably not. □

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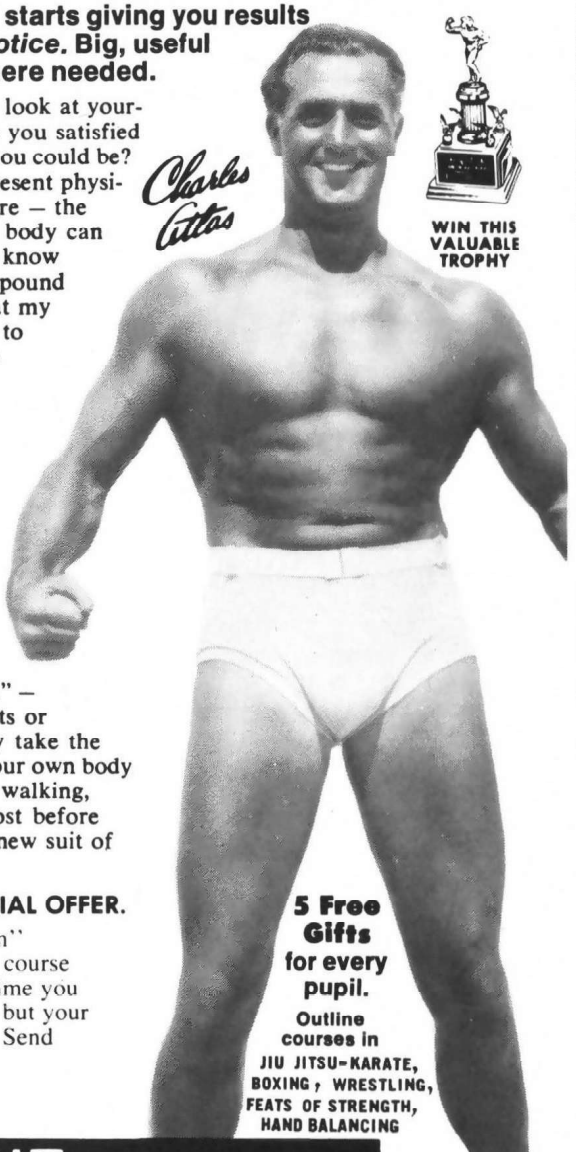

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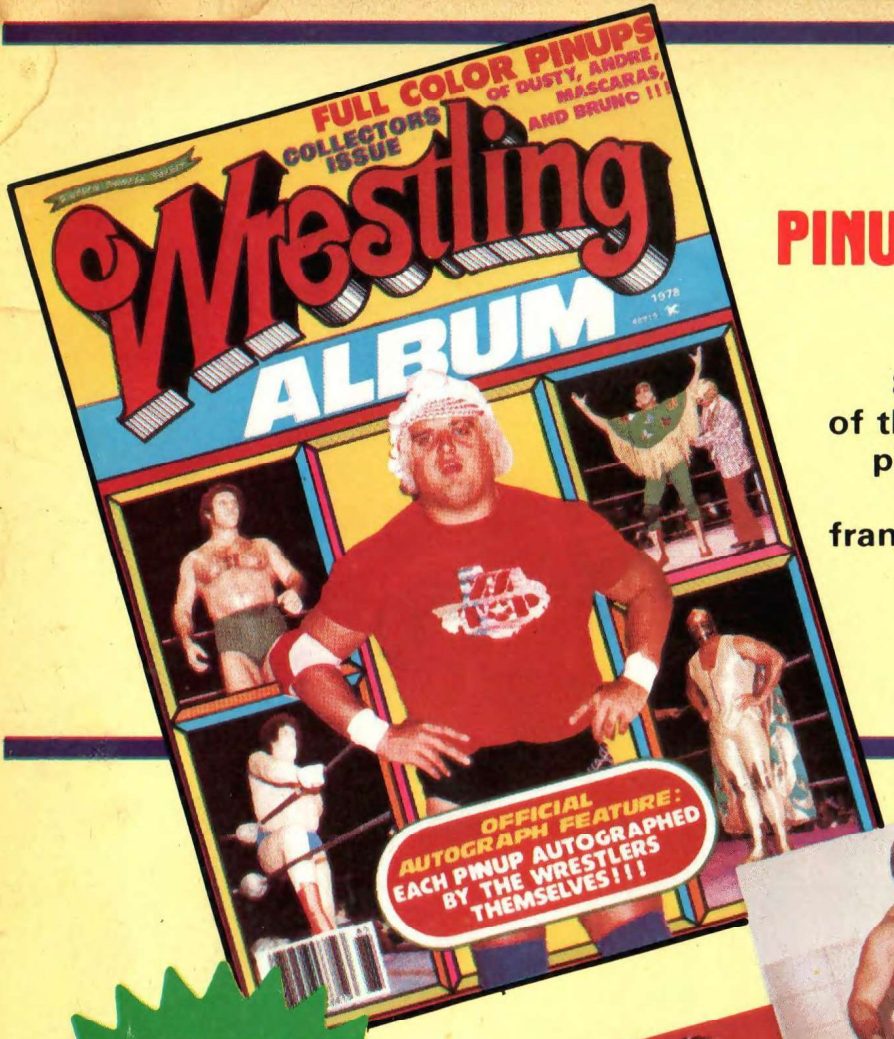
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